

Wild

A full-page photograph of two men wading through a river. The man in the foreground is wearing a light green short-sleeved shirt and dark shorts, carrying a large green backpack. The man behind him is wearing a hat and a long-sleeved shirt, also carrying a backpack. They are surrounded by dense green forest and rocks in the background.

AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

Stove buyer's guide

Australia's wildest

river valley?

Tiger walker tells

Lightweight bushwalking

Summer skiing

Kimberley kayaking

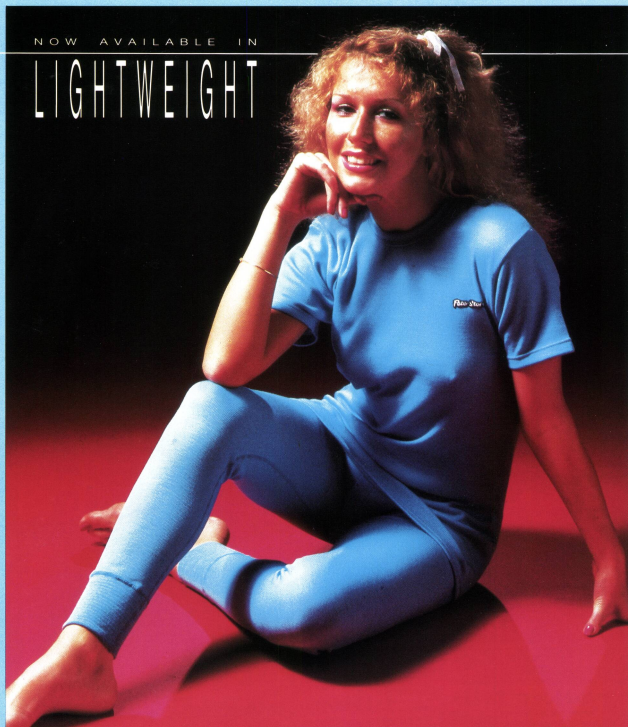
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Cover Gaiter testing in Victoria's Genoa River. Photo Andrew Brookes. **Contents** More aquatic bushwalkers, this time in the Snowy River, Victoria. Photo Michael Collier. *Maximum recommended retail price only.

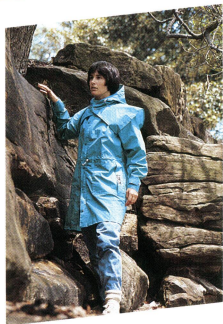
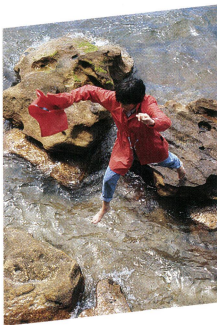
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Advertising rates available on request.

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Contributions, preferably well illustrated with slides, are welcome. *Guidelines for Contributors* are available on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Submissions must be typewritten, double-spaced with wide margins, using only one side of the paper, and accompanied by an envelope and sufficient postage for their return. Names and addresses should be written on manuscripts and photos as well. While every care is taken, we accept no responsibility for material submitted. Articles represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the publisher.

Editorial, advertising, subscription, distribution and general correspondence to: Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181, Australia. Phone (03) 240 8482

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responsible for erroneous, incomplete or misleading material. Audit Bureau of Circulations member. (The ABC records independently audited fully-paid sales of periodical publications. *Wild's* current ABC paid circulation figure is available from *Wild*.)

● THIS ISSUE MARKS THE END OF OUR SIXTH year of publication. At times in those years we scarcely had time to draw breath. Recently, however, we took time to find out more about you, our readers, and what you expect from your magazine. Copies of the questionnaire for our first readership survey were distributed to a broad sample of readers, with *Wild* no 23. The response has been so heavy that we wonder how we will ever finish processing them! When we do, however, we will have a much better idea of what you want from *Wild* and, hopefully, you will see the results of your requests in future issues.

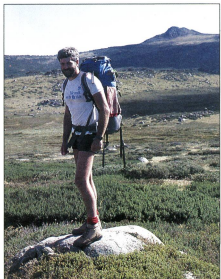
We are, of course, delighted at the response to our survey and particularly thankful for the thoughtful and detailed comments and suggestions so many included. The lucky prize-winners in the readership survey draw are P Holloway of Preston, Victoria, who has won a J&H Dandelion superdown sleeping bag, and I Elliot of Preston, Victoria, who has won a Mountain Designs Gangotri II internal-frame rucksack. In addition, P Cahill (Kensington, SA), A Clancy (North Melbourne, Vic), and J Claperton (Frankston, Vic) each won a *Wild* Windbeater; G Fenton (Gowrie Park, Tas), I Smith (Blaxland East, NSW), M Keating (Bendigo, Vic), and I Tunbridge (Waitara, NSW) each won a one-year subscription to *Wild*; and M Bryse (Tylden, Vic), A Wakenshaw (Pakenham, Vic), J Shaw (Kalamunda, WA), M Pawluszyn (Blaxland East, NSW), and G Austin (Nightcliff, NT) each won a *Wild* T-shirt.

Another project we are working on is, of course, the eagerly-awaited *Wild* indexes. (These are no ordinary indexes; we have set out to make them the Australian wilderness activities resource reference. Indeed if, before we started, we had realized the time and cost involved we might never have embarked on this venture!) The first index will cover our first ten issues (two and a half years, because *Wild* commenced publication in the middle of a year, 1981) and subsequent ones will each cover eight issues (two years). Hopefully the index for *Wild* nos 11-18 will be at the printer when you read this. We will let you know as soon as it, and others, are available. Keep an eye out for them.

It is no secret that right at the core of our readership are our valued subscribers, many of whom committed themselves to *Wild* when it was still just an idea and have remained the most faithful and cherished supporters of 'the *Wild* idea' ever since. To improve and streamline our vast and complex subscription system, and to further improve our service to subscribers, we are planning a major computerization. Like most big undertakings it is not an easy task but we believe it will be most worthwhile to all concerned. We are firmly committed to the concept of a 'priority service' to our subscribers.

We urge you to help us avoid waste on costly renewal-notice mailings by renewing your subscription early. (In fact, you do not even have to wait until your subscription expires—we will extend existing subscriptions at any time on

receipt of the appropriate payment. Some shrewd subscribers, apparently to avoid the effect of possible future price increases, have renewed their subscriptions well into the future!) The issue to which you are 'paid-up' appears as the last number above your name on each magazine (or renewal notice) address label. Because of the administrative savings possible



Chris dries his socks en route to Mt Jagungal, New South Wales.

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If you are renewing a subscription please make it perfectly clear that it is a *renewal* (that you are *not* subscribing for the first time). Unless this is specified, your name may be entered in our records for a second time and you will probably get duplicate copies of your next issue, and your subscription will then expire one issue too soon. Similarly, when sending gift subscriptions, please indicate whether they are *new* gift subscriptions or gift subscription *renewals*. This will save much unnecessary waste and confusion. Please notify us promptly of address changes (preferably enclosing your address label from previous issues of *Wild*).

I am excited about issues we have coming up this year—bushwalkers, in particular, will welcome them—and look forward to seeing you in the bush. ●

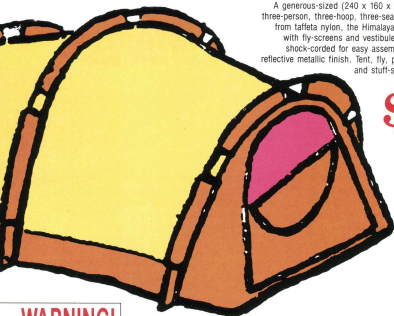
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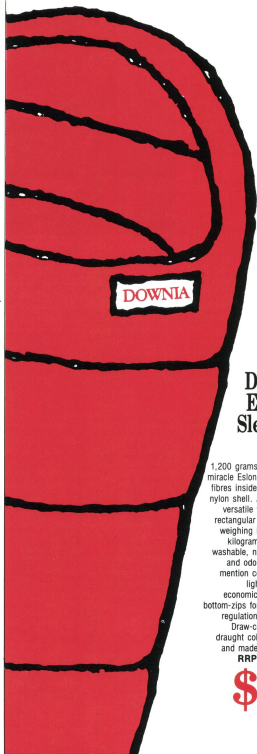
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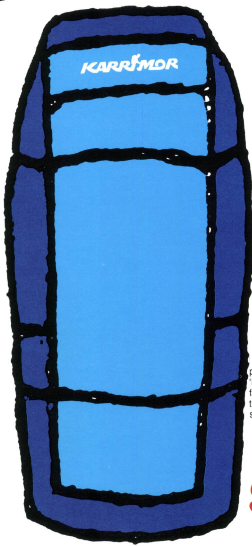
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Contributors

James Adams is an editor of the University of New South Wales student newspaper *Tharunka*, and is a recent BSc (Design Studies) graduate. His graduation project was on the design of lightweight bushwalking stoves! This interest in stoves is a natural development of his childhood love of all machines, and his clock-destroying curiosity.

A bushwalker, rockclimber, and cyclist, James has walked through much of NSW and Tasmania, as well as parts of New Zealand. In 1987 he plans to expand his forays internationally on a shoestring budget.

Syd Boydell is a schoolteacher, at St Michael's Grammar School in the Melbourne suburb of St Kilda, who has been enjoying bushwalking

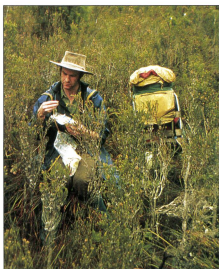
His work has appeared in a variety of conservation publications, and he is working on his own book, on Tasmanian wilderness.

David Poland was introduced to bushwalking when he was at school, in Sydney. Since then he has survived bushwalking trips in New Zealand, Kashmir, Nepal, and the highlands of Papua New Guinea. In 1985 he took part in a 26-day exploration of the Osmond Ranges in the Kimberleys, Western Australia.

David's other interests include cycling, Li-Loing, canyoning and swimming. He is an active member of the Wilderness Society and the University of New South Wales Bushwalking Club. Despite this background, he eventually wants to settle down as a sedentary general practitioner with major interests in paediatrics and sports medicine.

Chris Sharples has walked extensively in South-west Tasmania for over ten years, and is also a keen sky-diver. He intends to combine sky-diving and mountaineering by leaping off some of the world's highest cliffs, an act he claims is safe if the cliff is high enough!

After working as a geologist for some years he realized that a full-time career would stop him from attempting many of the things he wants to do, and now works on a contract basis only. He is convinced that life has extraordinary



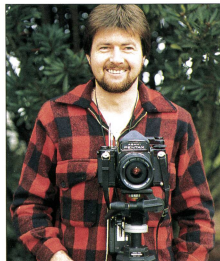
experiences to offer, and is concerned that the quality of our lives, both individually and collectively, suffers greatly because of the cultural obstacles to such experiences.

These notes describe writers and photographers whose first contribution to W&A appears in this issue. Brief notes at the conclusion of articles and features by contributors whose work has been previously published in W&A include reference to the issue in which it first appeared.



and introducing others to it for many more years than he cares to admit. He confesses to have been a gear freak in the past, but is now trying to live a better life. He is, however, grateful for the advent of much modern lightweight gear.

Dennis Harding, now in his early thirties, has lived in Deloraine, Tasmania, all his life. A self-employed wedding and portrait photographer,



Dennis has been solo bushwalking in central Tasmania for 11 years, and has taken many of his outstanding wilderness photos in this area.

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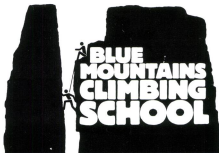
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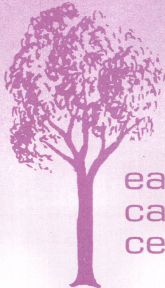
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Mt Cook and Mt Tasman loom above the Tasman Glacier. Photo Steve MacDonald



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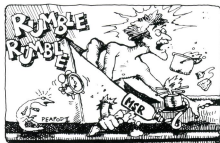
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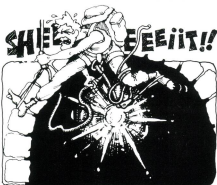
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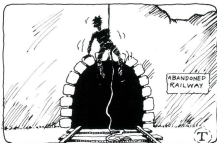
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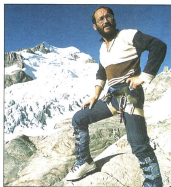
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Clockwise from top left: Shivling (6,543 metres), Indian Himalaya. Jon Muir during his first ascent of Shivling's spectacular South-west Pillar. Fairydawn Spider daypack, Khumjung, Nepal. The classical Fairydawn 20 Below sleeping bag. Fairydawn Terra Nova pack, Kantlega and Thumserku behind, Nepal. Fairydawn Altimate II, Tatopani, Nepal.

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Clockwise from top left: Jenny Basset and Fairydawn sleeping bags on the Dick Smith Explorer, Antarctica. Bob Shepherd, International Polar Expedition 1986. Fairydawn Endeavour pack, Telemarking in the Southern Alps, New Zealand. Dawn in the Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales. Fairydawn Terra Nova pack, Mt Ionu, Southern Alps, New Zealand. Paul Caffyn, the first man to paddle round Australia, inside a Fairydawn Leading Lite sleeping bag on the west coast of New Zealand.

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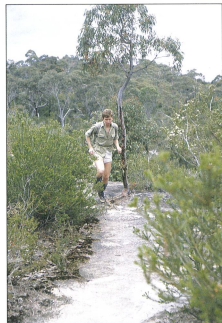
Tiger Walk

Peter Treseder traverses the NSW and Victorian high country in ten days

Wild Information

● **Bush Marathon.** In *Wild* no 22 we reported that Peter Treseder planned to run the 1,439 kilometres from the Barrington Tops, New South Wales, to Walhalla, Victoria, in 12 days. This report was not entirely correct—in November Treseder completed this epic solo traverse of National Parks in only ten days! (See article on page 30.)

● **Keith Egerton.** Popular and accomplished Melbourne climber Keith Egerton died, probably of pulmonary oedema, during a daring lightweight attempt with Terry Tremble and New Zealander Don French on Janu (7,710 metres) in the Nepal Himalayas. Attempting the difficult



Tiger-walker Treseder training near Sydney. Klaus Huenneke. Right, Keith Egerton, with Nepalese porter, on the approach to Janu. Terry Tremble. Above right, Camp Three on Janu, Nepal. Tremble

original route on the mountain, the trio had overcome the major difficulties to establish a bivouac on a plateau at 7,000 metres. With perfect weather, success seemed assured when Egerton became ill. He died the following day during the long and difficult descent.

Egerton had attempted major Himalayan peaks such as Mustagh Ata and Nanda Devi, and had climbed in Europe and New Zealand. A highly competent and respected rockclimber, he was a leading pioneer of new climbs in south-east Australia. He will be sadly missed by many bush- and mountain-lovers.

● **Killing Kakadu.** A mining company, supported by the Northern Territory Government, has thrown into doubt the listing of Kakadu National Park Stage II by the World Heritage Committee in Paris. The company has taken injunction proceedings to prevent the



Australian Government's application for listing, and other court proceedings have been initiated to challenge the new plan of management for the park.

● **Destroying Daintree.** A conservation group calling itself the Greater Daintree Action Centre has started a petition to have this unique part of north Queensland saved from further

'development' in the form of logging, mining, road-works, real estate subdivision, and clearing for agriculture. Over 13,000 signatures have been obtained in the Cape Tribulation area alone.

● **New Track.** A 46 kilometre 'Wilderness Trail' has been opened in Queensland's Coolool National Park. The new track commemorates the 150th anniversary of the rescue of Eliza Fraser from the northern shore of Lake Cootharaba.

● **Sunmap.** Queensland's Department of Mapping and Surveying has published a new edition of its *Sunmap Guide*, detailing map coverage of Queensland published to July 1986. Copies of the guide can be obtained, free, from the Surveyor General, PO Box 234, North Quay, Brisbane, Qld 4000.

● **NSW Park News.** Major additions to two National Parks were announced at the end of 1986: 17,350 hectares, stretching from Mt Werong in the north, to Wombeyan Caves in the south, were added to Blue Mountains National Park, and 10,500 hectares were added to Goulburn River National Park. The latter addition is claimed to create the largest continuous area of National Park in NSW.

In late November it was announced that 'the cream of the New South Wales rainforest' had been placed on the World Heritage List—Australia's sixth World Heritage Area. (In fact, 15 rainforest parks and reserves, constituting a total of approximately 100,000 hectares of rainforest, are involved.)

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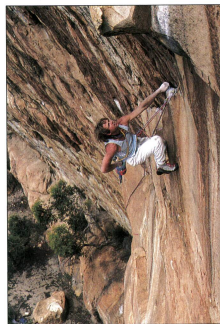
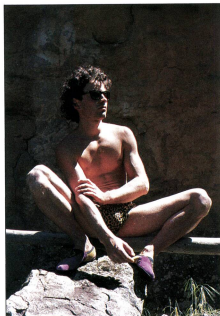
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Social Climbing

International rock stars at rockclimbing meet

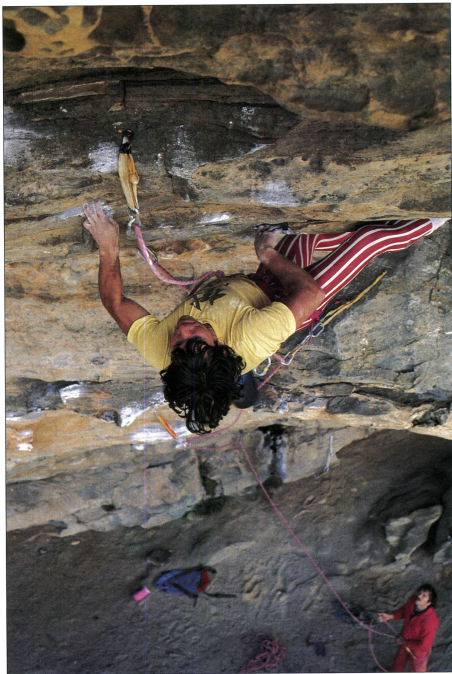
Wild Information

● **Rock News.** The Victorian Climbing Club's International Climbing Meet, held at Mt Arapiles in November, attracted several hundred climbers, including many from overseas. 'Stars' who attended included Wolfgang Gullich (West



Top. French rock star, Didier Raboutou, did the second ascent of Lord of the Rings (31) at the International Climbing Meet at Mt Arapiles. Glenn Robbins. **Above,** Canadian ace, Peter Croft, on Sandinista (22), Mt Stapylton, Victoria. Andrew Corliss. **Right,** leading West German climber, Wolfgang Gullich, on Angular Perspective (28), Bundaleer, Victoria, during the meet. Robbins

Germany), and Didier Raboutou and Jean-Claude Droyer (France). Ex-patriate Australian 'rock star', Kim Carrigan, even flew in from Switzerland but, as he was married (near Melbourne) just before the event, his energies



appeared to be devoted more to honeymooning than climbing!

Leading Canadian rockclimber, Peter Croft, was in Australia after the meet and impressed locals with unroped solo ascents of climbs such as Paladin (24) and Horrorscope (24) at Mt Arapiles. (Last May, Croft and American, John Bachar shook the climbing world by climbing two famous big-wall climbs in California's Yosemite Valley in one day. In a total of 20 hours 10 minutes they climbed both the Nose of El Capitan and the original route on the North-west Face of Half Dome, some 58 pitches of technical climbing!)

Following the Editorial and information in *Wild* no 23 on climbing bans, it has been

revealed, after the discovery by climbers of a concealed hide for birdwatching at Werribee Gorge, Victoria, that climbers have been under a misimpression about peregrine falcons nesting in the area. Rockclimbing on the Amphitheatre has been banned for up to five months of every year from 1976, supposedly because of peregrine falcons nesting there. A spokesman for Victoria's Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands, which administers the area, has now acknowledged that there was no peregrine nesting at this cliff, nor, it appears, anywhere else in the Werribee Gorge State Park, in any year from when the park was established, in 1975, until 1985! (During this period the 'nesting' ban was extended both in

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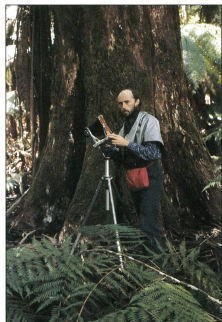


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time and area, to include the whole south side of the park, as well as the Staughton Vale cliff).

The *Wimmera Mail-Times* reports that the Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands wants to appoint a full-time Ranger for the proposed Mt Arapiles-Tooon State Park (which



Top. David Tatnall in the Brodribb River area of East Gippsland, Victoria. **Above.** US television crew at Mt Donna Buang, Victoria. **Right.** waterfall on the Rodger River, East Gippsland.

has not yet been proclaimed), and that the department considers it may be necessary to restrict camping in the area.

The climbing ban at Big Rock, in Victoria's You Yangs, no longer applies, according to a department spokesman.

For two years running, Mt Everest sum-miteers Tim Macartney-Snape and Greg Mortimer have been thwarted by officialdom in



attempts to climb on the spectacular sea stack, Balls Pyramid, near Lord Howe Island. The first trip was abandoned after the Lord Howe Island Board tried to charge expedition sponsor, Dick Smith, a '\$500 'peak fee'. Smith refused, saying he would not pay for the privilege of giving his own money away.

A second expedition, comprising five climbers and seven scientists, which was to have visited Balls Pyramid in 1986, would have been charged \$300 for the first day and \$150 for each subsequent day on the peak. The board announced that it has banned all 'recreational' climbing on Balls Pyramid and says it will consider only expeditions conducting 'scientific' research. (The proposed fees, and other onerous conditions, were reportedly recommended to the board by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, which claimed the fee 'is a standard fee which we levy on anyone who wishes to participate in such activities in any National Park in NSW'.)

Readers who are aware of any proposed or

existing restrictions on rockclimbing and allied activities on public land anywhere in Australia are asked to send full details to *Wild*, to assist in the publication of up-to-date information.

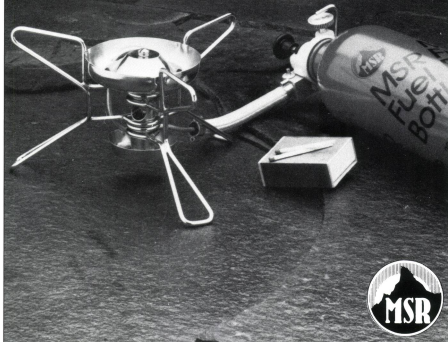
● **On with the Show.** Landscape photographer David Tatnall and sound recordist Duncan Smith have produced a 20-minute 'Image and Soundscape' on the Rodger River area in Victoria's East Gippsland.

The Image and Soundscape takes the audience on a journey through the forest. Medium-format colour transparencies are projected on to a large screen by two projectors, and a dissolve unit specially imported for the presentations. While the images are projected, stereo sounds recorded in the forest are played through four speakers, recreating the experience of being in the forest.

While gathering material for their Image and Soundscape, Tatnall and Smith discovered a substantial waterfall on the Rodger River. The waterfall is downstream from Waratah Flat, in

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the heart of the Rodger River Wilderness. About ten metres high, the waterfall enters a deep pool, where platypus swim.

● **On the Box.** The American television network, NBC, recently sent a four-person crew from the USA to document the work of landscape photographer David Taitnall (whose work was featured in *Wild* no 20). The crew spent three days filming Taitnall working in his dark-room and photographing at Mt Donna Buang. The segment was shown to an audience of 25 million people.

● **Woodchipping.** Over 6,000 people attended an anti-woodchipping rally and concert in Melbourne on 23 November. Organized to protest against the continued deforestation of East Gippsland for export woodchips, the rally followed close on the heels of the recommendations of the Land Conservation Council for East Gippsland. The LCC recommended a number of new National Parks for the region, but these do not include large areas on the Register of the National Estate. The LCC also recommended that woodchipping be allowed in East Gippsland. The Wilderness Society urges readers to write to their local Member of Parliament, and to Premier John Cain, asking that all National Estate areas in East Gippsland be protected in National Parks, and that there should be no forest-based woodchipping in the region.

● **Paddling Logs?** An almost-annual event with unlikely origins is the Nymboida Wildwater Forestry Marathon, a 100 kilometre canoe race which was first held in 1982 as part of the NSW Forestry Commission centenary celebrations marking 100 years of State forestry in NSW! The 1987 event will be held at Easter—contact (066) 42 0518 for further information.

● **By the Book.** Joseph Jennings's (see *Wild* no 15) second book, *Karst Geomorphology*, was recently published posthumously. The book, based on the most recent research, is a significant advance in understanding the processes that form caves and their surrounding landforms. Many Australian examples are included.

Stephen Bunton

● **Maps.** The Victorian Department of Property and Services Map Sales shop can now be found on the second floor of the new Information Victoria Centre, 318 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000. Phone (03) 663 3483.

● **Laying Plans.** Victoria's Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands has established a 'project team', based in Bright, to prepare management plans for the State's alpine areas. These management plans are to be based on the recommendations of the Land Conservation Council for the management of the area which were released in 1983. The project involves some 700,000 hectares of public land. Public participation and comment is sought.

● **A Chance to Sink the Boot In.** Australian Hacky Sack bootbag (see Equipment in *Wild* no 22) distributor, Wallaby G Promotions, and Dunlop Footwear are offering prizes, including Dunlop KT Bushwalkers, Harbour Hackers shirts and, of course, Hacky Sacks, for the best

photos (preferably slides) of Hacky Sackers at it in the bush, underground, or on the rocks. Send entries to: Wallaby G Promotions Pty Ltd, PO Box 177, Pymble, NSW 2073.

● **Guiding Lights?** An Adventure Guides Association of Australia has been formed for people working in, or interested in, adventure guiding or outdoor activity instruction in Australia. The association states that probably its most important aim is to lobby government and other governing bodies of wilderness activities to introduce qualifications. Further information: GPO Box 2436, Canberra City, ACT 2601.

● **More Undiscovered Cave.** The recent discovery of Arthurs Folly has again demonstrated that Tasmania is the State for cave exploration. The cave is over a kilometre long and significant because it is a resurgence under a section of Lune Sugarloaf, formerly thought to be devoid of caves. It is also biologically very active, with large invertebrate populations in the stream passage.

SB

● **Felling Tasmania.** Tasmanian logging, at Farmhouse Creek in the South-west, the Lemothyne Forest near Cradle Mountain, the Douglas River and, particularly, Jackeys Marsh hit the headlines during summer. The Federal Government has declared its opposition to the Tasmanian Government's authorization to begin woodchipping operations in the Jackeys Marsh National Estate area. The conservation movement has swung in behind the Federal Government on this issue to prevent it from backing down. Conservationists consider that if the Federal Government stands firm and stops the logging of Jackeys Marsh, all of Tasmania's National Estate forests will be protected, and the mechanisms used to protect them will probably be able to be applied to forests in other States. The Australian Conservation Foundation urges readers to write to newspapers and ALP politicians supporting the Federal Government's stand.

● **Statistics.** A survey by the Australia Bureau of Statistics has found that, at April 1986, 47% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over were concerned with problems of the environment in Australia. Most were concerned about pollution (30%), conservation of flora and fauna (21%), and deforestation (19%).

It was estimated that, for the 12 months to April 1986, 7% visited World Heritage Areas and a further 35% had visited a National Park in Australia (other than a World Heritage Area).

● **Nettlebed Again!** After the long-awaited breakthrough from the surface of Mt Arthur, at 867 metres Nettlebed is once again the deepest cave in the southern Hemisphere.

This deep cave has been explored uphill from near the Pearse Resurgence for 13 years until it eventually achieved a height (depth) of 700 metres (see *Wild* no 22). Numerous trips to caves near the summit of Mt Arthur failed to find one which 'dropped into Nettlebed'. This has now finally happened with the discovery of Blizzard Pot, as the top entrance is called, taking the short-lived title from Bulmer Cavern. Nettlebed is now a through-trip, from top to bottom; the second deepest through-trip in the

world. First to complete this feat were David Chester, Mike Coburn, Jonathan Ravens, and Trevor Worthy, who made the trip in 25 hours. SB

● **Sweet Caroline.** Maryann Hobbs, a Mt Cook National Park rescue team member, became the first woman to climb the 2,500 metre Caroline Face of New Zealand's Mt Cook when she made the ascent last October with Mike Roberts. The Caroline Face was the last major face on Mt Cook to be climbed, in 1970. It received its first winter ascent in 1981.

Colin Monteath

● **Taking the Plunge.** Australian Tony Dignan was lucky to walk away after trying what he describes as 'gravity-assisted acrobatics' when he plunged 250 metres whilst descending from the Footstool in the Mt Cook National Park. Climbing alone, Dignan had completed a difficult new route on the East Face of the Footstool and was descending the dangerous North Ridge in a white-out when a cornice collapsed under his weight.

● **Hut.** An Australian Antarctic Division expedition left Hobart in December to continue the research and conservation work on Mawsons Hut at Commonwealth Bay begun by the private expedition, Project Blizzard. (See *Wild* nos 17 and 21.)

● **World Park?** The possibility of Antarctica being the first, and probably the only, World Park is fading. The ninth meeting of the 32 Antarctic Treaty nations to negotiate an Antarctic Minerals Convention was held in Tokyo last October and November. At this meeting the third draft of procedures and mechanisms by which a nation may sponsor mining operations in Antarctica was discussed and completed. However, three key issues remain to be decided. 1 Who is liable for any accidents that may occur? In particular, if there is a large oil spill, who pays for the clean-up, and should the claimant country receive any compensation? Not all signatories to the treaty consider the claimant countries should accept any compensation. 2 What guidelines should be established for the issuing of exploration licences and for mining? 3 Who should inspect the mining operations, and to what extent should they be checked for adherence to all conditions and regulations as will be specified in the agreement? It is possible that these issues could so divide the signatory countries that, to facilitate an early agreement, they will be pushed to compromise their position in one or two areas to gain the third. Either way, it appears that the environment is going to be the loser and the earth's last great wilderness lost.

Philippa Lohmeyer

● **Corrections.** Bulmer Cavern was misspelt on page 27 of *Wild* no 22.

The phone number in the Katadyn advertisement on page 6 of *Wild* no 23 should have been (042) 27 2473.

The first reference on page 33 of *Wild* no 23 to 'grade-three rapids' should read 'grade-two rapids'.

Readers' contributions to this department, including colour slides, are welcome. Typed items of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Send contributions to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

Caribee tents are made from flame-retardant taffeta nylon. The porous inner-tents have open-mesh panels to encourage ventilation. **Ultra-light**, eight-millimetre-diameter hollow woven-fibreglass pole segments are shock-corded for convenient assembly. Together with the guy-cords and pegs supplied, Caribee tents are easy to erect, disassemble, and pack into their own stuff sacks. Naturally, workmanship and materials are guaranteed.

Caribee

The most extensive range of packs and tents in Australia. Ask for Caribee tents, packs and accessories at Paddy Pallin, Scouts, Southern Cross, Mountain Designs and all other good bushwalking shops.

Caribee tents



Isodome 7050
Four-pole dome. Twin zip entrances with concealed mesh screens and vestibules. Two ventilating mesh ceiling panels. Reversible fly with reflective metallic coating.
Capacity: three person
Size: 251 x 208 x 122 cm
Weight: 3.7 kg



Caddis 7052
Three-pole tunnel. Twin zip entrances with concealed ventilating-mesh screens and vestibules.
Capacity: three person
Size: 240 x 180/160 x 110 cm
Weight: 3.3 kg



Dome 7054
Three-pole dome. Twin zip entrances with concealed ventilating-mesh screens. Reversible fly with reflective metallic coating.
Capacity: three person
Size: 243 x 213 x 125 cm
Weight: 3.1 kg



Bivy 7053
Two-pole tunnel. Ventilating-mesh ceiling panel.
Capacity: two person
Size: 245 x 112 x 60 cm
Weight: 1.4 kg

Going Light

Lighten your load; with Syd Boydel

● IS IT WORTH IT? CAN IT BE DONE? FOR MOST OF us, the answers to these two questions seem to be 'no' and 'no'. Somehow or other the pack fills up with 'essential' item after 'essential' item, and we groan up the hills, grunt down them, and eventually arrive at the campsite completely exhausted. There is a fair chance, too, that if there has been much rock-hopping we will have damaged our knees and back. As for exploring and savouring the delights of the bush along the way and around the campsite, forget it!

A commitment to lightweight walking, on the other hand, puts the emphasis on travel, rather than torture. It enables us to enjoy and explore, to live more simply, to remain undistracted by the clutter of a consumerist camp.

Perhaps for most of us the problem is not whether we want to travel light, but how to do it. Opinions differ on the best way, but it all

major items—tents, packs, sleeping bags, and boots. Considerable weight can be saved without loss of performance. Be careful to match what you buy with what you really need—buying a sleeping bag which is effective to -30°C is silly, heavy, and expensive, if you never go into such conditions.

An obvious way to cut down pack weight is, of course, to discard things you do not need.

Where non-dehydrated food is part of the menu, it should be remembered that foods rich in fats (cheese, bacon, margarine) contain more energy per gram than carbohydrate foods.

Virtually all packaging should be discarded and replaced with plastic bags—it is surprising how much packaging weighs. (Preparing for a recent trip, I discarded about a kilogram of the stuff!) It should not be necessary to say that it



Walking on air? (The Acropolis, Tasmania.) Andrew Briggs. **Right:** storming up a Cook? (You can't go much lighter.) Gresley Lukin

starts with deciding to make a start. It then means a good deal of thought in planning, purchasing and packing, but it is well worth it. One place to start is the pack. Get a smaller one, and learn to live with its capacity. Remove all the external toggles, buckles, and 'doover-lackies' not needed for the trip in mind.

A vital step is to put a pair of kitchen scales beside the pack. Everything going into the pack must be weighed. Select the lightest pair of shorts, the lightest plates, the lightest cutlery, the lightest parka, and so on. Of course, one must be sensible—a plastic sheet will not replace a decent tent in the mountains. On the other hand, your ten kilogram snow tent is not needed on an overnight walk near the beach, however impressive it may look!

When buying new gear, always think about the weight. This is important, especially with



This sounds easy, but how many times have we taken, again and again, items we never used? After every trip, it is good to systematically evaluate what was taken and whether it was needed. 'If in doubt, leave it out.' This is not, of course, an argument for the omission of truly essential items. If it could snow, snow gear must be taken. If you might need to abseil, a rope must go in. But there are generally lots of other things that deserve to stay in the cupboard at home.

What weight should be aimed at? It is impossible to say, because the requirements of each trip and each individual vary so widely. It can be surprising how reasonable your pack weight can be if you are careful—for example, a week-long summer walk in South-west Tasmania can be completed, comfortably, with a pack of less than 16 kilograms, and a 16-day trip to the same region with a pack of under 24 kilograms. Of course it is possible to do better—many *Wild* readers have, no doubt, already done so. The tips which follow, however, may prove useful to some readers.

Food

This is a very individual item! None the less, average adults can eat well with 850 grams per person per day, even in strenuous conditions.

is never necessary to carry food in tins or glass containers.

Group Equipment

Once again, needs vary, but much weight can be saved in this area. It is *vital* not to duplicate equipment. One stove can service two or three, tents are most efficient (and warmest) when full, a camera can often be shared, and so on. When in doubt, discuss it with your group.

Tents. The weight of tentage per person tends to decrease with the size of a tent. That is, a three-person tent is generally more weight-efficient than a two-person one. There are perfectly adequate two-person tents which weigh less than three kilograms (1,500 grams per person) for all but bad snow conditions, whilst three-person tents can reduce this figure to 1,100 grams per person.

An alternative to a tent is the use of individual bivvy bags. These do save weight (good ones exist with weights of under 600 grams—see the gear survey in *Wild* no 10), but there is some obvious discomfort in extended wet weather.

In some conditions, of course, a tent is not necessary at all. In desert areas a pitched fly will often suffice.

Stoves. These are not always necessary, but increasingly it is becoming socially responsible

Wild Ideas



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to carry one and 'save the trees'. They vary in complexity, cost, fuel efficiency, and weight (see the gear survey in this issue).

A perfectly adequate stove for two people, including two saucepans, can weigh less than 700 grams (350 grams per person). Fuel weight is additional, of course, and on a very long trip, a heavier stove using kerosene or Shellite may, in fact, prove lighter than a lighter, less efficient stove using hexamine or methylated spirit. The important thing is to calculate it, and take the lightest combination.

The number of cooking utensils required is a matter of debate. It is possible to cook quite comfortably with two saucepans. A frying pan is not necessary, and very light lids can be improvised from aluminium pie bases.

First aid kits. Even on long trips, a massive one is not necessary—all it adds to the trip safety is a heavier pack. Individual needs, the number of people, the length of the trip, and the nature of the trip will all indicate its weight, but a carefully planned one will weigh less than an unplanned one.

Cameras. These are often treated as an individual responsibility, but they can be used successfully as group equipment, thus reducing the weight per person. Some very good light cameras are available (see the gear survey in *Wild* no 11), weighing as little as 200 grams. Some people, of course, prefer a single-lens reflex camera (weighing about 600 grams), whilst others will prefer to 'expose the trip on the emulsion of their memories', and leave the camera at home.

Personal Equipment

The difficulty with guidelines in this area is that tastes here are indeed personal.

Footwear. For rugged country, there are some superb, light, and strong boots on the market. They tend to be pricey, but when you consider the amount of lifting and lowering of feet each day on a walk, any saving is welcome. Whether the old adage 'a pound on the foot is worth four in the pack' is true or not, any saving clearly increases the feeling of mobility and freedom. Aim for a pair under 1,400 grams (see the gear surveys in *Wild* nos 8 and 22).

Boots, of course, are not always necessary. Most walks in non-alpine Australia are fine in sandshoes or runners, which also have the advantages of causing fewer blisters, and being much lighter. It is seldom necessary to carry spare footwear if the main pair is in good condition and well broken-in. Light thongs are a surprisingly good compromise between none and some.

Clothes. Woollen shirts and jumpers can be replaced by fibrepile, polypropylene, or chlorofibre garments. Woollen trousers can also be replaced by these, although overpants may need to be carried for wind and scrub. Any cotton shirts and shorts should be light—the heavy army-type are not necessary. One change of socks is ample. A whole change of clothes is generally not necessary. Light gloves (for example, Damart) can be used with spare socks over them for cold 'snaps'.

Eating gear. A plastic bowl combines the functions of a cup and plate. Plastic spoons are fine. Only the knife blade need be metal. Forks are generally unnecessary.

Sleeping bag. A down bag is, of course, lighter (and more expensive!). It should be matched as well as possible to the conditions—it is seldom necessary to carry a

bag weighing more than 1,700 grams in Australia. The gear survey in *Wild* nos 14 and 19 should be consulted if you are buying.

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How Do You Rate?

Imagine you are packing for a seven-day walk in remote Tasmania. Drag out the kitchen scales and compare the weight of each item with the target weights. Count one point for every 100 grams in excess of the targets and rate yourself on the scale below.

| | Target (grams) | Score (points) |
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| Rucksack | 1,700 | |
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| Sleeping bag and inner | 1,600 | |
| Parka | 650 | |
| Overpants | 250 | |
| Shorts | 100 | |
| Shirt, singlet | 150 | |
| Pullover, warm jackets | 1,000 | |
| Trousers (wool) | 500 | |
| Balaclava and mittens | 250 | |
| Underwear | 100 | |
| Socks | 450 | |
| Personal bits and pieces | 300 | |
| Loaded torch | 200 | |
| Bowl, mug, and cutlery | 150 | |
| Loaded camera | 300 | |
| Share of tent | 1,400 | |
| Share of first aid and repair kit | 250 | |
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| Gaiters | 200 | |
| | | Total |

0-10 points: Truly weight conscious
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Water. Plastic water bottles (such as used fruit-drink containers) are lighter than aluminium ones, and a wine-cask bladder is a good replacement for a traditional bag.

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Final Tips

The real key is, of course, careful planning. If the packing is done in a rush, the result will almost always be too heavy. The key steps are:

- 1 Plan well ahead—list your needs.
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- 3 Repackage where necessary.
- 4 Weigh everything going into the pack.
- 5 Keep a note of things never used.
- 6 Do better next time.
- 7 Be on the look-out for lighter alternatives.
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Wild Bushwalking

Tiger!

*Klaus Huehnke
catches up with
fast-moving
bushwalker,
Peter Preseder*



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Final Tips

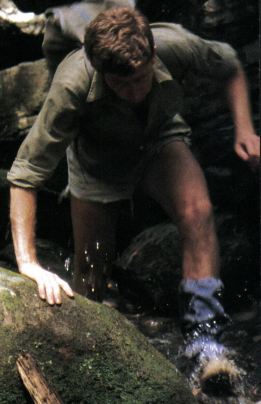
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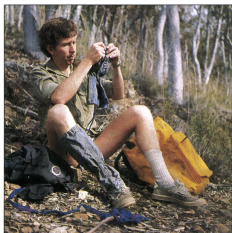
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Wild Bushwalking

Tiger!

*Klaus Huehnke
catches up with
fast-moving
bushwalker,
Peter Treseder*





● PETER TRESEDER IS A BUSHWALKER with a difference—he has a penchant for running against the clock, against the elements, and against fatigue through some of the most rugged wilderness areas of Australia. One of his recent exploits was an ambitious marathon through the full length of the Blue Mountains. He started at Widden Cutting on the Goulburn River in the northernmost part of Wollemi National Park and finished on the Wombeyan Caves Road near Mittagong. The distance—a mere 330 kilometres, the time—just on 86 hours.

His route was via Mt Corricudgy, Colo River, Wollangambe River, Mt Irvine, Grose River, Megalong, Cows River, Mt Cloudmaker, Kanangra Walls, Yerranderie, and Wollondilly River. It involved total ascents of 9,150 metres and descents of 5,450 metres. Memorable incidents included being drenched to the skin for the first day and night, climbing a spectacular pass out of the Wollangambe Gorge, having a meal cooked by friends who met him in the Megalong valley, snatching a few hours of fitful sleep on three occasions, and nearly pulling out from exhaustion near Kanangra Walls. In the end he was glad he kept going.

This run was a tribute to Myles Dunphy who, years earlier, proposed the Greater Blue Mountains National Park. 'I remember I was in Paddy Pallin's shop one night and I saw an old gentleman there. He was just standing in a corner fiddling with something. I knew who he was but it seemed really odd that everybody who was in the shop or likely to come there, and who owed so much to this trail little guy, did not know who he was. It irked me.'

Left and page 31. Peter Treseder finding his way through dissected Hawkesbury sandstone—his favourite terrain. **Above.** Treseder preparing for another marathon. All photos Hueneker

The idea of running through the Australian bush started in the 1930s with a group of very fast Sydney-based bushwalkers. They were Max Gentle, Gordon Smith, Hilma Galliot, Alex Colley, Jack Debert, Bill McCosker, David Stead, Dot English (later Butler), and Len Scotland; they were known as 'tiger walkers'. The term 'tiger walking' was recently resurrected by the Three Peaks Outdoor Society of which Peter is a leading light.

A now-legendary tiger walk is the Three Peaks trip from Katoomba and back via Cows River, Mt Cloudmaker, Mt Paralyzer, Mt Guouogang and Narrow Neck. Early times over this rugged and largely untracked course with three elevation differences of 800 metres were in the vicinity of 18 hours. Names that pop out of the record books include Ray Jerrems, Warwick Daniels, John Fantini, Meg McKone (the first woman to do it in two days), and brothers Dave and Chris Cosgrove. Then came Peter Treseder with 16 hours 30 minutes in July 1982, and 15 hours 11 minutes in August 1985.

The dissected sandstone country of the Blue Mountains and the Sydney area is Treseder's 'back yard', and after many bushwalks, searches and rescues all over it, he knows it well. This has facilitated numerous other records, including Katoomba to Mittagong in 15 hours 26 minutes, Jenolan Caves to Katoomba in 6 hours 48 minutes, the Blue Gum Yo Yo, including up and down six major look-outs, in 8 hours 6 minutes, Otford to Bundeena in 2 hours 5 minutes, and Berowra to Pennant Hills, by the Benowie Track, in 1 hour 57 minutes. In January 1986 he slipped, scrambled, and splashed through six Kanangra canyons in 37 hours 30 minutes (see *Wild* no 20).

The imprints of Peter's distinctive long stride have also been spied in the Cradle

Mountain—Lake St Clair National Park and in the Snowy Mountains. In December 1981 he ran from Waldheim Chalet to Cynthia Bay via the summits of Cradle Mountain, Barn Bluff, and Mt Ossa in 11 hours 5 minutes. The first jog from Perisher to Kiandra came in February 1984 with a record time of 7 hours 52 minutes.

The run over this classic route was first undertaken by a small number of people in the 1960s. By the 1980s it had become a relatively popular thing to do. It started with Kore Grunnsund, Otto Pinkas, and Ross Martin, all better known as champion cross country skiers, and continued with people like Jim Bosworth, Ray Jerrems, and Peter McCackett. Jim Box completed the run in 8 hours 15 minutes. During Peter Treseder's first run he also broke the long-standing ski record of Robbie Kilpinen. Robbie took 8 hours 11 minutes in the 'big snow' year of 1964. The route has inspired many more attempts to ski it than to run it, but it was not until September 1985 that David Hislop poled and skated across in a seemingly unbeatable 6 hours 18 minutes. The distance is about 70 kilometres, making his average speed about 11 kilometres an hour over untracked and unmarked snow.

Skilling over long distances is considerably faster than running, and it appeared that Hislop's time would stand for a long time. Treseder, however, had other ideas, and could hardly wait for the snow to melt. In November 1985 he ran the route in 6 hours 10 minutes. A time of under 6 hours was within his grasp. What makes this hare run?

Quiet and unassuming, Treseder is of medium, rangy build, with a background in Scouting that goes back to the age of seven when he started as a Cub. His nickname in the Fifth Pennant Hills Venturer Unit is 'Goanna'. He works as a loans officer at the Ryde branch of the Commonwealth Bank, and often runs home to Wahroonga via areas of bushland in the Lane Cove River valley.

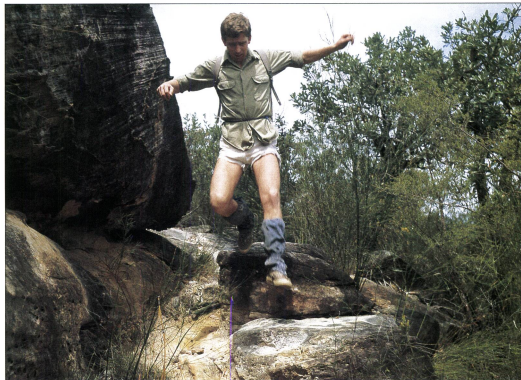
Treseder's approach to tiger walking is very much an individual philosophy. 'I tend to look at it as a guy climbing a mountain by himself—it's a personal challenge. The last thing I'd like to see are races organized like athletics meetings with lots of people lined up, a starters gun, and large-scale back-up. No, a tiger walker has to be able to navigate and look after himself.'

'I've always got a pack on, a small pack with a waist strap. I've got a duvet, long underwear, and a complete set of olivines—so if the worst comes to the worst I can just go and sit under a tree all night. I've usually got a bivvy bag too, it keeps my clothes dry in the pack. For food I might have a couple of oranges which I dispose of pretty quickly, some bars of chocolate, and some jelly beans. I used to take little glucose tablets but found they weren't too good.'

I asked Treseder about the route he followed on the Perisher-to-Kiandra run.

'There's only one way you can come out to Kiandra and that's down the Tabletop Fire Track. From Perisher you head for Munyang and the Schlack Pass Road. It's the middle area, from Schlack across to Tabletop, that's the question. Gungahen is one of the rough, slow sections because of the scrub. Then you head down the right side of Valentine River but not quite on the top of the Brassy Mountains. You make for the fire road that comes past Cesjacks. Then we discovered, by careful looking at

The journey will start at Mt McKenzie on the Barrington Tops and, after a succession of parks including Wollemi, Blue Mountains, Budawang, Kosciusko, Bogong and Wonnangatta—Moroka, ends at the historic town of Walhalla. Where feasible he will follow traditional bushwalking routes rather than fire roads. In Victoria he will be on the well-marked Alpine Track. The total distance is over 1,400 kilometres with a cumulative rise of 51,890 metres (23 Kosciuskos stacked on



the map, a small link road that led off the fire road just past Cesjack's and went across to the Grey Mare Road. It's on the eastern side of Spencers Peak.'

One of the secrets of his success at tiger walking, the hardest marathon of all, is to keep going without stopping. 'My idea of a rest is to keep walking—I don't actually sit down and stop—that way I'm still covering ground at the same time. A lot of guys stop for 20 minutes and have a bite of lunch. But you lose 20 minutes. I may not be as fast on my feet, but I make up time by not having those breaks.'

'The worst thing that can happen is getting sick. It's psychologically very draining to be out in the middle of nowhere and feeling like you're going to croak any minute. If you sprain an ankle you can deal with that, you can hobble along. Being sick is the worst.'

What about kudos and recognition? 'I must admit it is nice, but I'd much rather sit back in a cafe, for instance, and overhear people talk about my feats without letting them know that I'm the person who's done them.'

When this article was in preparation, Treseder was planning to attempt the ultimate tiger walk, a fast and continuous traverse of the major National Parks of New South Wales and Victoria.

top of each other) and a fall of 50,910 metres.

Like all his other efforts, it will be a solo trip with little fuss and minimum back-up. There will be three pre-established food and map dumps, including one at Sawyers Hut near Kiandra. Here he will pick up a warm sleeping bag for the freezing high tops. The route goes across 63 topographic maps, all of which have to be carried for at least part of the trip. Treseder's aim is to cover 120 kilometres between daybreak and sunset every day and to bivvy out at night. Whenever he is close to civilization—a rare event—he will telephone a contact person in Sydney. This will segment the route in case a search is needed.

After this effort there seems to be nothing else to do, or does there? Knowing Treseder and his intense drive for personal challenge and excellence, I doubt if he will sit still for very long. Will we see a 700 kilometre trip in South Australia's arid Flinders Ranges, or an epic from the McPherson Ranges to Wilsons Promontory? They are not impossible. ●

Klaus Hueneke (see Contributors in Wild no 5) has been walking and ski touring Australia's high country for almost 30 years. A noted wilderness photographer and historian, he is author of the forthcoming book, Kiandra to Kosciusko, in which some of the journeys mentioned in this article are more fully described.

Wild Bushwalking

Chris Sharples visits one of Australia's wildest places and comes back with renewed conviction of the value of wilderness

The Lost River

● THIS IS A FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF A RIVER trip in South-west Tasmania, undertaken by the author and Grant Dixon in January 1985; the river may be recognizable to those with a detailed knowledge of Tasmania's wilderness (it is not the Franklin!).

Although wilderness exists independently of human ideas of it, 'the wilderness experience' is an intrinsically human affair, involving both a physically wild place and a wild state of mind. To describe in print a truly wild and little-known place is to compromise that wild state of mind, by making the physical wilderness more familiar, safer, and less mysterious. Unrealistic and idiosyncratic as such an ideal may seem, it is nevertheless apparent that mystery is an integral part of many sorts of wilderness experience—mystery is the tantalizer, the instigator of great adventures. So why not preserve it where it can be preserved?

The river in this account is one of few truly remote and little-known places remaining in Australia today. No route guides to it exist, and only a handful of people have journeyed down it.

If I seem to be contradicting myself by writing of this trip at all, it is because the finer moments of the human spirit are experiences which the mundane uniformity of mainstream modern culture threatens constantly to submerge. It seems important to me to state clearly and loudly that finer things are available to those who will seek them.

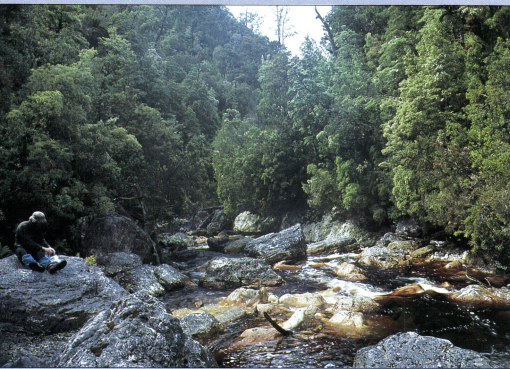
I therefore write this account on the self-imposed proviso that I do not name the place in question, in order (I hope) not to compromise the mystery and wonder which is its very essence.

● When we finally reached the river, I was afraid—and fear showed me, with rare clarity, the value of life. Not only the intrinsic value of adventures such as this, but the potential of my whole being. Aware of death, I could not escape the profound importance of living this brief life to the full, of feeling the boundless beauty, inspiration, and exhilaration life offers if we will only allow it. It is a deep tragedy that most of us so rarely can see keenly the extraordinary value of being alive; experiences which show us this are priceless.

The river is the stuff of legend. In the damp forest beside the narrow hidden river we waited through the first long night at the head of the gorge, itching to begin our descent of the river—and afraid of what we might find there.

I do not know when I first learned of that place, but once I became aware of it it

Left, a rest-stop on boulders below the final gorge. **Right**, Chris Sharples dwarfed by the majesty of the final gorge. Grant Dixon





became a part of my aspirations. I had dreamed and schemed for years, until a final momentous effort had taken me there. There was no thought of turning back; these were the great days.

We had climbed a scrubby, rarely-visited ridge, stumbling under 40 kilogram packs, then descended again through a tangled hell of intertwined pandanin and ti-tree to finally drop steeply and perilously to the river, whose tortuous rocky waters greeted us at the bottom of a narrow defile.

The strange familiarity of the reality which greeted us after all those years was a sensation difficult to describe. For me, the river had always held an aura of ultimate mystery and unattainability. And yet, here we were, with sunlight streaming through green trees on to normal water and solid rocks. There was no other-worldliness in the place. The exotic could still be felt, however, in another sense. The place was remote, primeval. Being there was the mystery, the core of our yearning for experience. I had fantasized how it would be to finally reach the ocean after a journey down such a river. At last I was doing it.

To our knowledge, only three parties had been through the gorge of the river before, and their cryptic stories only heightened the aura of uncertainty and difficulty surrounding the place. Few people had any desire or notion of going there.

The mysterious, remote, and little-visited hold an irresistible fascination for me. I had dreamed of precipitous crags and wet misty forests that had never known humans. Above all, carved deep in my imagination, there flowed an archetypal river in a timeless journey from a shrouded misty hinterland, through terrifying gorges and cataracts, then winding through a vast sea of lowland forest before emerging at last on a lonely coast, lost between sand and seagull. There occasional travellers might cross its mouth, trailing their fragile thoughts and purposes unknowingly across the shadow of the tremendous secret that was the dark and silent river.

For four days we struggled down the eight kilometres of gorge, two ephemeral beings delicately balancing our existence against the awesome indifference of the river. Every step of the way was a trial, a contest with rock and water. There was always the fear of a final impassable obstacle, but there is a determination which comes of having no means of turning back, and we always succeeded in continuing our journey.

In the upstream part of its gorge the river flows through a tight slot roofed over with fallen boulders. We could not see whether this tunnel was passable, but to carry on we had to leap over a small cascade into a pool below. We did so, and were relieved to find that we could proceed; we might not have been able to climb back up the cascade had the tunnel been blocked.

A treacherous slime coated the awkward rocks. We would wade through pools clutching our inflatables (a Li-Lo and a small rubber raft) before us until we had to clamber wetly over the boulders, delicately balancing and creeping from rock to rock with our 40 kilogram packs on our backs, all the time trying to avoid slipping on the frictionless slime. Only rarely were the pools big enough to float across on our inflatables, but when they were, the vertical rock walls enclosing the river generally made flotation the only method of progress.

In the event of flood the vertical walls of the gorge would make escape impossible in most places; a hapless person caught here in high water could spend days cramped on a tiny wet ledge somewhere above the torrent.

Several times we tenuously negotiated drops up which we could hardly have returned without climbing gear. Each irreversible move strengthened our downstream momentum.

One drizzling morning we stumbled upon a small clearing in the wet forest at a point where the river banks flattened out beside a still, dark pool. The faint impression of an old campfire told us that this was a campsite used by one of the parties which had preceded us down the Sharples contemplates the tranquility of his surroundings, in the second gorge. Dixon. Right, dreamlike, precipitous crags soared to misty heights. Sharples

gorge. It was the only sign of previous human passage we saw in this remote and forbidding place.

Further downstream the entire river flowed for some distance beneath a bed of gigantic boulders, over the top of which we clambered. It was eerie to walk along the floor of the gorge with no sight or sound of water.

Finally, on our fourth day in the gorge, we reached the portals through which the river flows out on to the flat lowlands. A final high ridge is cut by a deep and dramatic chasm. After wondering about this place for so many years it was almost a shock to touch the reality of being there. With a kind of reverence we entered the chasm.

The day was a madness of continually alternating periods of pelting rain and brilliant sunshine. As we entered the chasm itself, the sun emerged, shining brilliantly from the rain-drenched rocks, and creating a glistening El Dorado. We basked on rocks, soaking up a few minutes of warmth before the rain closed in again.

The actual chasm was a relatively straightforward passage, but below it the river continued to drop steeply for a kilometre or so before reaching the lowlands. The remainder of the day was a delirious hell of rain and sunshine, cascades and giant slippery boulders. Several hundred metres below the main



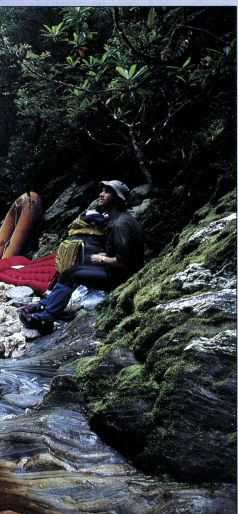
chasm we came unexpectedly upon a last short narrow chasm. A deep pool of still black water rests in the perpetual shadow of its overhanging walls, which nearly create a subterranean passage. This place too could only be entered by leaping over a small cascade into the dark pool. After awkward splashings and flounderings we managed to clamber on to our inflatables, whereupon our agonizing progress down the river was replaced by a brief interlude of floating in dim, cool stillness, a dripping peace beneath smooth overhanging walls of quartzite.

The exit from this chasm was as awkward, again, as the entrance, and our slow, slippery progress continued down the boulder-strewn river.

In the late afternoon the river flattened out in a way we knew signified the final exit from the gorge country to the flat lowlands. The sun emerged for a few minutes from the rain, and we sat, steaming and basking, on rocks in a wide shallow pool.

Over the remaining few days we floated down the broad reaches of the lowland river. Only at one stage did we have to leave the river because of log-jams and walk for three hours through the forest, which at that point was open and spacious beneath a cool leafy canopy.

In stark contrast to the gorge, our progress down the lower river was easy and assured. We drifted more than



propelled ourselves, content to float along in a state of contemplation. The two parts of the journey had a certain fullness to them: the difficulty and uncertainty of the gorge, followed by the perfect ease and flow of the lower river, winding its way down that wide valley through an unbroken carpet of forest.

We emerged from the mouth of the river, floating tranquilly backwards into the shallow coastal lagoon as we gazed back to the disappearing hills through which the gorge cut. We had come from there!

At times the wilderness becomes infinite, an oceanic mystery. Perceptions of particular places and experiences are swallowed up by a stillness and a vast distance which fills the senses. In warm afternoon backlight, rainforests take on a silvery glow, the folded blue hills stretch endlessly towards hazy horizons.

To be there, out of touch with the world of humanity and the affairs of civilization, is to enter a different state of mind. Out there, the problems, worries, schemes, and ideologies of human society lose meaning and begin to show a certain absurdity. It may only be a temporary

detachment, but it is real and has an infinitely subversive potential.

Thick foliage

Placid beneath warm suns,

Tawny fore-shores

Washed in the cobalt of oblivions!

At the mouth of the lagoon, where river finally meets ocean, we came at last to the coastal track, a path followed by many who know little of the trackless hinterland they glimpse as they walk along the well-travelled path they never dream of leaving.

As we rested on the broad sands beside the swelling ocean we were joined by two summertime walkers. Their blank incomprehension of where we had come from was replaced by disbelief and incredulity when we pointed our route out on a map.

To most people the interior fastnesses of wilderness have no comprehensible form; to travel there is unthinkable. Our experience is something ultimately incommunicable. But it is better so: wilderness is finally lost in spirit, if not physically, when it becomes familiar and safe. ●

1 The Age Demanded by Ezra Pound

Wild Ski Touring



● SUMMER SKIING HAS ONE MAIN disadvantage. I am not talking about the unfunny jibes out-of-season skis attract from airport wits. Nor about how many seconds of heli-skiing an Australian dollar will buy for you in the Bugaboos. That is not summer skiing anyway, it is northern winter skiing.

The main disadvantage of summer skiing is that there is less snow. (If you are going to be a smart Alec go on to the next article.) Less snow does not just mean less snow, or even more rocks, which I can handle. Less snow means open crevasses. Rocks might take the edges off my skis; disappearing down a crevasse would take the edge off my skiing. I do not think I am the type to philosophically savour the thrill of those final plummeting seconds.

Summer crevasses are not an Australian problem. There is no snow, nor any crevasses in Australia in summer. But New Zealand has summer snow, open



The upper Tasman Glacier. **Right**, Mt Cook at sunset. All photos Brookes

Summer Skiing

Let's go! With *Andrew Brookes*

crevasses and excellent possibilities for summer cross country downhill skiing. Between them, rocks and crevasses rule out long summer ski tours in New Zealand, but they do not rule out cross country downhill. There are untracked slopes of perfect spring snow which you can carve up until 9 pm. The summer drifts and upper neves could be an



The buoyancy of our skis enabled safe unroped travel on the upper Tasman Glacier. **Right**, on the Mt Annette Plateau.

unrecognized 'Arapiles' for 'XCD freaks'. Except 'it never rains at Arapiles', which brings me to another disadvantage of summer skiing. There can be an awful lot of sitting around waiting for the rain to stop in between the days of brilliant skiing.

Crevasses and the notorious New Zealand weather are two factors to be considered in planning a summer cross country downhill trip. I had had a couple of trips to alpine New Zealand before going there to ski. The usual walks, Geoff Wyatt mountaineering course, pass-crossing trips, and tentative attempts at some easy peaks: just enough experience to know how inexperienced I was. We woke one morning to the chug of a helicopter ferrying two corpses down the mountain. Two confident and cheerful climbers we chatted to that same day also died, on Mt Aspiring a week later. The lesson was clear. Mountaineering in New Zealand is a serious game, played for keeps.

I had often thought of returning with skis. When the chance came to join Mal Cowell doing just that, I took it. Mal had the necessary experience to see that Nick and I did not drop into one of the hazards already mentioned.

After two weeks of loitering around Mt Cook Village in poor weather, we temporarily shelved a plan to fly to Tasman Saddle, and walked up to Mueller Hut. From there we were able to pick our way on skis from drift to drift, and 'skin' up to



the Annette Plateau. Our intention was to dig some palatial caves on the edge of the glacier. Some token attempts at excavation of the very hard snow soon convinced us to construct realistic ones. We renovated some rather small, half-collapsed caves already there, and joined them together. An unusual feature of the resulting abode was a split-level floor plan which had Mal sleeping in a cold trap at the cave's lowest point.

The spell of fine weather was just long enough for us to discover the enjoyment of skiing until 9 pm on perfect spring snow. The peaks of the Mt Cook region provided a good backdrop, and the slopes were not crowded. Summer cross country downhill definitely is not a sport with a big following.

The return of miserable weather highlighted the second-class nature of our accommodation. Draughts creeping through crevices in the 'brickwork' soon enlarged them into gaping holes. Nick muttered unreasonably that if I had told him of our snow-caving plans before leaving Australia he would have brought a bivy bag. None of us fancied another night in the disappearing cave, so we left.

Retreating in the storm was somewhat of an epic, but a short one. We skied by habit, wind-driven rain and ice preventing a proper view of exactly where we were going. Heavy packs did not help, but

luckily the snow was mostly predictable... mostly. Nick managed to catch an edge and go for a slide. Picturing myself in effortless control slaloming gallantly to his dropped stock, I managed a similar slide. I am sure my fancy self-arrest grips were starting to work, when rocks checked me and made them irrelevant. Fate, or perhaps an icy patch, had Malcolm soon following suit, tangling with Nick and breaking the tail of a ski. Not that any of us were attempting any party tricks. This was a time for controlled side-slipping and careful slow christies. Gusts of wind made us stop to lean, braced, on our stocks. Blasts of tiny ice particles rewarded our attempts to face where we were going. Taking off skis to cross boulder fields was an irritation, and each occasion increased the risk of dropping a ski or stock, never to be seen again. We removed our skis and plugged steps up the final snow slope to the hut, dropping in for a hot drink before returning to the village.

This time a shorter wait resulted in some flying weather. Five of us and an extravagant quantity of gear were landed at Tasman Saddle. My pack was as heavy as I could lift, let alone carry. We spied a likely snow-cave site about a kilometre away, slightly downhill. It had to be downhill. After manoeuvring the load on



inside of my mouth became sunburnt. In poor weather we read, and ate our way conscientiously through the mountain of food we had with us. On some days rain, or wet snow driven across the slopes, made venturing outside unpleasant. Apart from the obvious reason for such trips, we had to emerge periodically to shovel snow from the entrance tunnels so that we would not be buried.

On a couple of occasions we visited the hut. At the top of the basin above our caves, where the slope changed from concave to convex, a line of crevasses had to be crossed. The idea was to select a route round them on snow bridges. When crossing the more doubtful areas, I knew I should ski at right angles to the lines of slots and 'think light'. I tried, but tended to 'think nervous'.

Skiing turned out to be an ideal activity for someone of my modest mountaineering experience. We could find skiing challenges on moderate, fairly safe terrain which held no real interest for climbers. On days when the climbers were sitting in huts waiting for the weather to clear, or going for a climb in poor conditions out of sheer frustration, we were able to safely ski the slopes outside our snow caves.

While they set off at 4 am to catch the freeze, we slept in and drank cups of tea until the snow was nicely softened. While they trudged knee-deep and roped across the snow basins, we could glide almost effortlessly past, the flotation of our skis making ropes sometimes unnecessary.

Our final ski was an 11 kilometre run down the glacier. Some old tracks showed the route taken by an unroped party on ski-mountaineering gear a couple of weeks earlier. We found that some crevasses had become alarmingly open since then, and for some sections we roped together. Down the safer stretches we linked Telemark after Telemark until aching thigh muscles forced us to pause.

I have read of some research which indicates that if current snowfall trends continue, Australia will not have any ski season by the year 2000 or so. If that is the case, I know where I will be spending my holidays. New Zealand summer skiing may not compare with New Zealand winter ski touring, but to an Australian ski tourist used to skiing any patch of snow available, it is brilliant. ●

Andrew Brookes (see Contributors in Wild no 13) is an experienced ski touring and bushwalking instructor as well as an avid wilderness photographer.

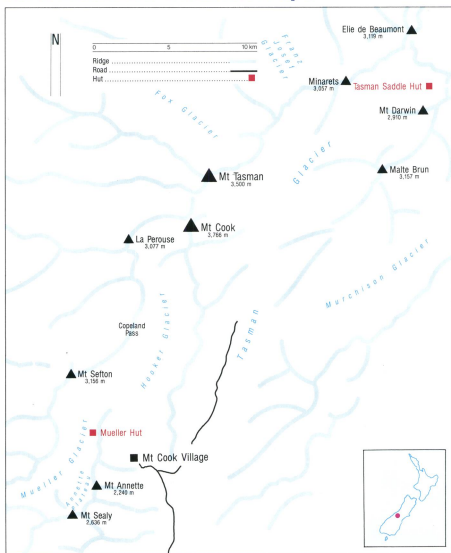
to my back I aimed my skis at the site and stood on them until I arrived there.

In normal circumstances I would find it hard to justify feeling superior to those climbers who manage feats beyond my skills and courage in these mountains. But later on, as we sat drinking tea at our cave entrance, we watched climbers tediously plodding thigh-deep with similarly heavy loads to Tasman Saddle Hut, and I experienced a twinge of smugness. Skis can be very much faster for glacier travel, even in summer.

Nick and I dug a cave which elevated functional perfection to art. The ergonomic sleeping and cooking areas, the smoothly curved internal surfaces, the way candlelight highlighted the soundly engineered entrance and ventilation shaft... I could go on. Mal, Sonya, and Liz constructed an adequate shelter alongside. A small communication tunnel between the two caves drained cold air from Nick's and my cave nicely, but Mal seemed oblivious to the importance of social intercourse and kept blocking it up.

We stayed in the area for ten days. When the weather was good, the summer daylight seemed to last for ever. I had always associated skiing with short winter days. The time in the sun took its toll on our skin. Nick and I maintained permanently zinc-creamed faces, but the

New Zealand's Southern Alps





Wild Canoeing

Kimberley Kayaking

*Terry Bolland
continues his
epic solo
navigation
of the
Kimberley
coastline*



● TEN MONTHS AFTER MY 100-DAY SOLO Kimberley kayak expedition, from Broome to Mitchell Plateau (see *Wild* no 12), I was ready to complete the second stage of the journey. This was to be about two-thirds of the distance, and involved travelling in the opposite direction, from Wyndham to Mitchell Plateau, to make use of the easterly winds.

Because of the crocodiles, and the shark attacks experienced on my previous trip, I decided to take a different kayak, fitted with outriggers and a sail. The outriggers would give me extra stability, and the sail would help to increase the



speed of this much heavier kayak. Unable to lift it, I decided to take a set of wheels which would help when I had to drag the kayak as much as 600 metres up a beach. (Tides in the Kimberley region are the second-highest in the world, varying by more than ten metres, and currents can exceed ten knots.)

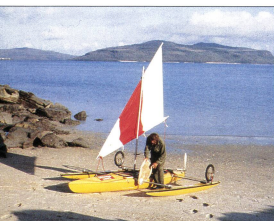
Before leaving Wyndham I planned a seven-day canoe-sailing trip round Lake Argyle, and a paddle down the Ord River to Kununurra. The lake has a volume of water nine times that of Sydney Harbour, and the scenery is breathtakingly beautiful: high cliffs, mountain ranges, and sparkling blue waters. Although the panorama was magnificent, the crystal waters glistened, and the majestic red peaks probed cloudless blue skies. I could hardly wait to start my coastal trip. But first I had a two-day paddle down the Ord River to Kununurra.

The river meandered through gorges and plains. Bird life, animals, and Johnson crocodiles were abundant. A slight current aided my passage through narrow channels with reeds and paper-bark trees dominating the banks. Baby crocs slept on small branches, dingoes paced the plains, and as the river widened the current eased, the sun beat down, and the tranquil surroundings stood still. The Carlton Ranges formed a giant amphitheatre with deep shadows in their folds. As I paddled through the gorge, the spectacular cliffs were reflected in the clear still water. The security of the lake and river were now behind me. Time spent on the lake helped

High seas between the Berkeley River and King George River. **Above**, sorting gear in the Admiralty Gulf, near the Osborne Islands. All photos Bolland

me to acclimatize and make sure I and my equipment were ready for the expedition ahead.

At Wyndham the locals did their best to discourage me with stories about man-eating crocodiles, and one of them suggested that it would be good for the tourist business if I was eaten, but I had received the same encouraging comments the previous year and had survived 100 days at sea. As I loaded my kayak to leave, a croc watched my movements



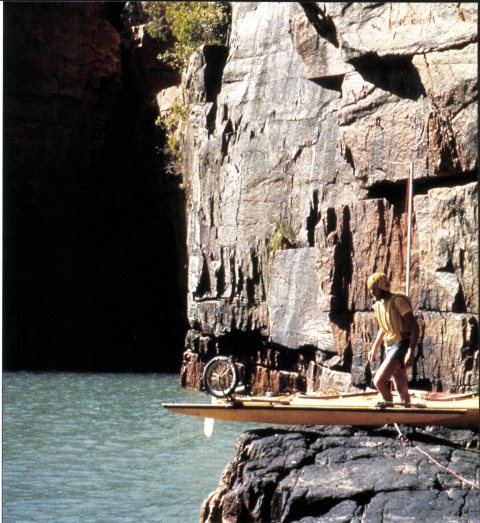
The Osborne Islands. **Right**, a dry waterfall on the Berkeley River. (Note the wheel on the kayak—used at campsites to move the heavily-laden vessel out of reach of the tides.)

from the muddy waters of the Wyndham. With sail hoisted, I passed the famous Wyndham meatworks where dozens of crocs congregated around the meatworks spillway. Immediately ahead were 20 kilometres of mangroves, which thickly lined both sides of the massive Cambridge Gulf, and made landing impossible.

It took three days to paddle-sail out of the Cambridge Gulf. Landing for the night was hampered by mangroves and the rocky shoreline. It was on the rocks that I chose to land and make camp, but it was a continual strain watching and waiting for crocs to leap out from the muddy waters. At last I left the Cambridge Gulf and paddle-sailed into bluer waters. I had looked forward to the sandy beaches ahead, but this soon changed when a five metre crocodile patrolled the beach in front of my camp. Experience on the previous expedition reminded me that they appear at the least-expected places.

The next morning the croc was nowhere to be seen, so aided by strong easterly winds, I paddle-sailed along the coast, to my first destination, the Berkeley River. Leaving some of my stores at the mouth, I paddled ten kilometres upstream, passing cliffs and mangroves. That night I camped on a coffin-sized ledge of a dry waterfall. Salt-water crocs and hundreds of flying foxes kept me company throughout the night. After stocking up with fresh water from Casuarina Creek, I headed further upstream with the tide. Massive vertical cliffs lined the river, and crocs mingled with the mangroves. The tide turned, so I left this picturesque place and headed once more out to the coast.

With strong winds behind me, I made



excellent time heading towards King George River. The wind became stronger as I approached a reef, covering the sea with breaking waves. There was no place to land so I was forced two kilometres from the coast. Soon monstrous waves surrounded me. In the troughs of these monsters I was several metres down. I gripped the sail-rope and rudder. The rudder was not working properly but I was not able to check it. The waves pushed me around like a cork, and as I surfed down huge waves I reached incredible speeds. A wave crashed down on my deck, caving in my spray-cover, and for a few moments water poured in. Time and again I plunged into huge troughs, seeing only an enormous wall of water flying in front of me. I could hardly believe that the kayak was taking so much punishment, but the outriggers gave it great stability. It was one of the most frightening times of my life, but after about 40 terrifying minutes the water became calmer.

Entering the haven of Prince George Harbour I was surprised to see that a navy patrol boat and a yacht were anchored there. The crew of the patrol boat asked me on board to join them for a meal of steak and eggs! The patrol boat was about to go on exercises, but that day was a rest day, so most of the men were on shore fishing and having a barbecue. The skipper of the yacht turned out to be an old friend whom I had not seen for eight years!

Next morning, I headed upriver with the early tide to see the spectacular gorge and waterfall, returning to pass a few

hours on the yacht.

From King George River my next important landmark was Cape Londonderry, where 25 kilometres of reef follow the coast and extend 12 kilometres out to sea. After experiencing very rough conditions along the coast and around the previous smaller reef, I feared that this long section of reef would be horrendous. To my surprise, it was very calm leaving Cape Londonderry, and I was unable to use the sail. After seven hours of paddling I was relieved to have cleared the dangerous reefs. At Cape Talbot a crocodile, a dingo, flocks of white pigeons, and a north-westerly breeze (which signalled the change in the weather pattern) greeted me.

Chased by sharks, I took three days to reach Kalumburu Mission, which was at the south end of Napier Broome Bay and about 15 kilometres up the King Edward River. Here I arranged to collect my food parcels from the local schoolteacher.

After four days I headed north towards Sir Graham Moore Island, round the peninsula into Vansittart Bay (with the abandoned Truscott Air Base, which was used during the war). To reach the air base I had to walk several kilometres inland through the bush. Parts of the airstrip were in good condition, but much of it was overgrown by wattle trees. A crashed B24 Liberator aircraft, a communication tower and other derelict equipment lay near the runway. Hundreds of steel mats littered the airstrip, and 44-gallon drums were scattered about.

With replenished water supplies I left



Truscott Air Base and crossed Vansittart Bay to the rugged coastline, which has several bays and points, heading for Cape Bougainville. I was very lonely paddling towards the cape, but a shark woke me from my trance with splashes and attacks on my rudder.

At Cape Bougainville I explored a gully that I was told might contain water. Because of the extreme heat I needed to replenish my water supplies as often as possible. The creek below the gully was a picture of death. The dry bed, encrusted with salt, lacked even the smallest living creatures, and the unhealthy-looking mangroves only gave refuge to debris brought up on a high tide. Unsuccessful, I returned to Cape Bougainville. Dead coral, washed up by the tide and bleached by the sun, formed a thick layer along the beach. To the north, several reefs extended for several kilometres out to sea, and as I climbed the steep cape the tide below rushed out at tremendous speed. Looking out into the haze I felt I was on the edge of the world. No matter which direction I looked there was not a soul for hundreds of kilometres. I was alone on the edge, and it could just as easily have been the edge of the moon. It was a fantastic feeling to be on my own in this great wilderness, a wilderness that only a few people have seen.

At Hat Point, south of Cape Bougainville, my water supplies were low, so I started producing my own water from four of my salt-water stills. Water is a sparse commodity at this time of year. The rains had passed several months earlier

and the fiery heat soon evaporated what lay in pools or small creeks. The weather conditions were becoming unbearable; it was very hot and humid. To add to the tropical heat, the dew made things very uncomfortable. As soon as the sun dropped, everything became damp. No matter what I did, my clothes were never dry; when I went walking they were soaked in sweat, at night they were covered in dew.

I left Hat Point knowing that I could not waste too many days before finding water and, as I paddled through the silent glassy sea again, sharks started following me. I headed towards two unnamed rivers. There were no beaches nearby, so when the tide allowed I landed on a rock ledge, one kilometre from the nearer river. The kilometre walk to the river was very difficult. I had to contend with chest-deep spinifex, wattle thickets, ravines, large boulders, and mangroves. The agonizing walk took an hour, and the return trip, carrying water in the blistering heat, was even more painful. As I had not washed in fresh water for two weeks, it was a welcome relief to reach the river.

For three days I explored the river and surrounding bush. Birds, lizards, fish, oysters, and other shell-fish and animals were abundant. In such a vast, rugged, inhospitable wilderness, places like these would be very important if I became stranded. The crocodiles were so cheeky that they slept only a few metres below my rock ledge.

Refreshed, I continued on the last leg of my journey to Mitchell Plateau. Within

a few kilometres I sighted my first sea snake, and saw more sharks, turtles, and dolphins. As I paddled closer to the plateau, the terrain became familiar, as it was less than a year since I had last paddled these waters.

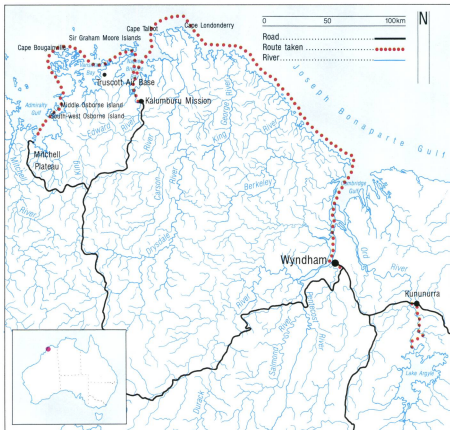
On arrival I met ten people in three four-wheel-drive vehicles. The canoeing part of my trip was over, but I had to get my kayak back to Derby—a spare roof-rack and \$100 soon solved that problem, and the kayak was spared the burial that its predecessor received the previous year.

My plan now was to explore the Mitchell Plateau area by foot. After several days' walking, I arrived at the tidal section of the Mitchell River, and followed it upstream to a four-tiered waterfall. The following day, to my surprise, a couple with two dogs walked into my camp. Leaving my new friends, I set off, cross country, to another beautiful gorge which had abundant animals, fish, and green ants that dropped from bushes and inflicted terrible bites. My last major landmark was the Mitchell Falls, another several kilometres overland. A magnificent stream of water tumbling over a hundred metres, the falls are one of the most spectacular I have seen in Australia.

Fifty-four days after starting my expedition, I again met up with the new friends I had made on the Mitchell River who kindly offered me a lift back to Derby. ●

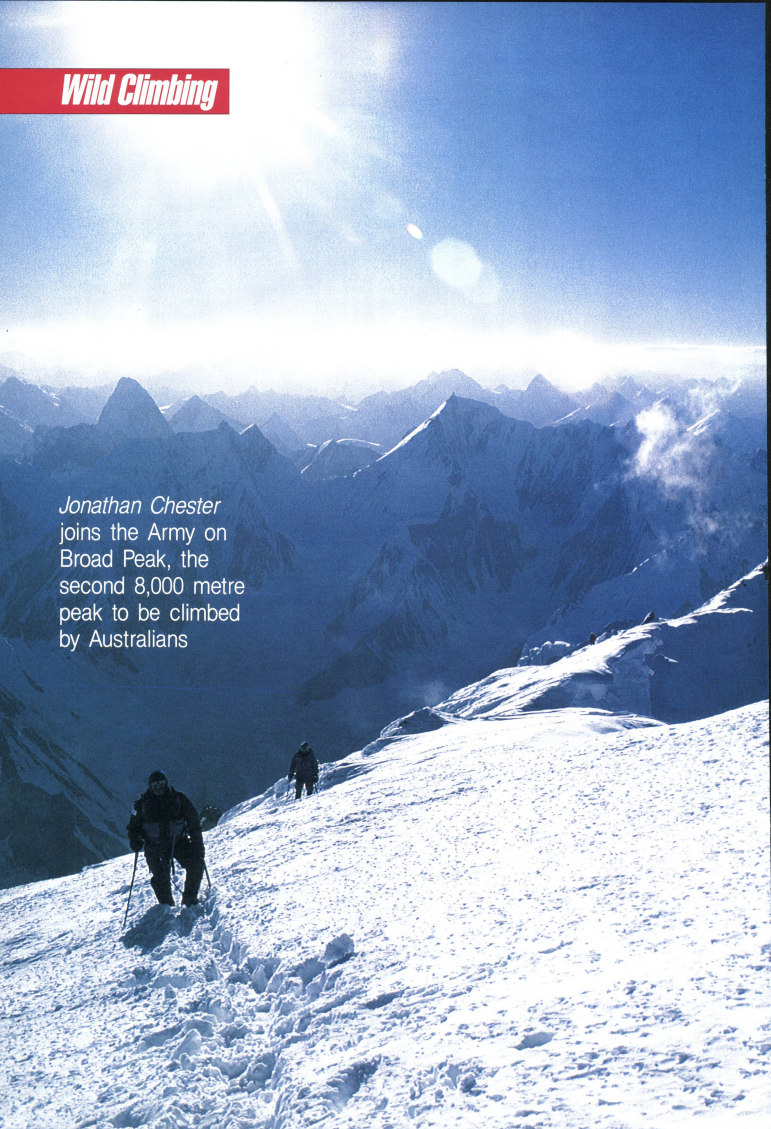
Terry Bolland (see Contributors in Wild no 12) has lived in Western Australia since 1972, when he emigrated from the UK. One of Australia's leading sea kayakers, in 1979 he set a world record by paddling 221 kilometres in 24 hours.

Kimberley Kayak Expedition Part 2



Wild Climbing

*Jonathan Chester
joins the Army on
Broad Peak, the
second 8,000 metre
peak to be climbed
by Australians*





BROADSIDE!

● AFTER A MORNING FIXING ROPES TO Camp One, Mike Rheinberger and I began to descend to Base Camp. On the way down I noticed what appeared to be a pile of abandoned climbing gear. On closer inspection we discovered the equipment was still attached to its long-dead owner. A mummified, claw-like hand poked out from a jacket. We did our best to cover the corpse with an orange tent fly found nearby. But every time I passed this site on the way to and from Camp One the



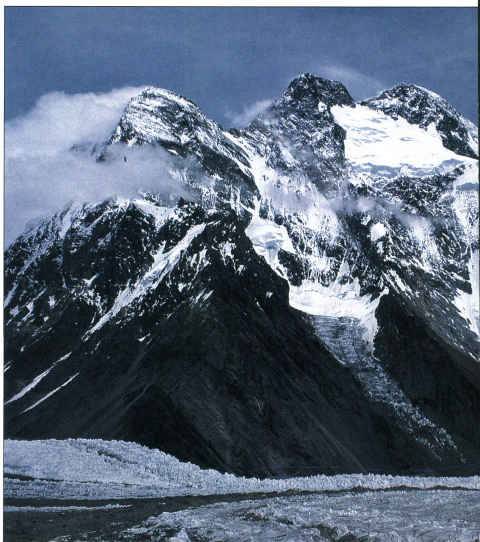
James Van Gelder, left, Mike Rheinberger and Pat Cullinan on the summit. **Right**, Broad Peak (8,047 metres): the summit is on the right and is reached from the col on its left. **Far right**, Cullinan, left, Chester and Rheinberger at Camp Two. **Pages 44-5**, K2, the world's second-highest mountain, looms over the summit ridge. All photos Chester

brightly coloured shroud was a chilling reminder of the penalties that can be dealt out by a mountain like Broad Peak.

Base Camp was perched on the medial moraine of the Godwin-Austen Glacier, in the shadow of our objective. Only after three hours of daylight would the sun finally haul itself over the ridge and its warming rays would reach our tents. There was no avoiding the sheer scale and presence of this 8,047 metre peak or its imposing neighbours.

We had reached Base Camp by a treacherous 100 kilometre march beside the Braidu River. One slip into this raging torrent would have been as fatal as any climbing fall. Once on the glacier we spent days stumbling with our 25 kilogram loads over the tortuous rubble of the moraine. However the spectacle of the Karakoram was ample reward for the long hours of foot slogging. This sanctuary of high summits and granite spires is a mountainscape of devastating power.

Broad Peak is arguably the least formidable of the world's 8,000 metre peaks. I had joined the 14-strong team from the Australian Army Alpine Association. This group has accumulated considerable mountain experience, including climbs on Mt McKinley, Gaurishankar, Chulu, and Nilgiri. Before meeting the team I was apprehensive about how I would cope with army-style mountaineering. Indeed, what was 'army style'? Judging from the paper warfare and pre-departure briefings at Sydney's Number One Commando Headquarters it was to be a rigorously organized expedition, with



climbing 'done by the book'. Even though every member of the expedition contributed \$4,000, each army member received a salary throughout the entire trip—something most climbers, like Mike Rheinberger and me, can only dream about. Mike and I were the only civilians in the party.

By climbing Broad Peak we hoped to gain valuable experience of working together at high altitudes. In 1988 the Army Alpine Association and the Australian Alpine Association plan to join forces to climb the South Col route on Mt Everest. Broad Peak's original route has been climbed many times, but it is still fraught with objective dangers. It was a challenge, and an essential stepping stone for our Everest aspirations.

It had taken us nine days to reach our Base Camp near the remote border between Pakistan and China, yet we were far from alone. Three other expeditions, attempting the same route on Broad Peak, shared our rocky home. An hour's walk up the glacier another five teams were installed at the K2 Base Camp, the world's second-highest mountain.

This sprawling international community led to a hectic social life of afternoon teas and evening sessions. To supplement our provisions, Norm Crookston, the enterprising Base Camp manager, also led a

series of scavenging raids to recently vacated campsites. We even reached the point of bailing out departing groups to relieve them of any surplus basics such as rice or sugar. As a result of these sorties we enjoyed a sumptuous diet, including German sausage, Yugoslav jam, Austrian pumpernickel, Korean dried seaweed, English cheeses, and Italian mayonnaise.

Our neighbours included several of the world's leading climbers—none more legendary than Kurt Diemberger. Together with fellow Austrians Hermann Buhl, Marcus Schmuck, and Fritz Wintersteller, he made the first ascent of Broad Peak, in 1957, using neither supplementary oxygen nor high-altitude porters. Twenty-seven years later the ever-exuberant Diemberger again climbed and filmed his way to the top of Broad Peak, with British mountaineer Julie Tullis. Now they had returned once more to the Karakoram to climb on K2.

It was clear from the outset that our progress was bound up with the movements of the other expeditions. We arrived in the midst of the busiest climbing and trekking season on record. At Dasso we had found it almost impossible to hire porters for our walk in. A South Korean expedition had earlier walked in with 450 porters. We required 160 porters, but most



of the manpower was either already ferrying loads or working in the fields.

Once on the mountain our passage was inextricably linked to the German, Yugoslav, and Austrian teams which shared the route. Ours was to be an ascent in the traditional style, using fixed ropes to establish and stock camps up the mountain in preparation for a summit attempt. To help reduce overcrowding on the climb we divided into two teams. Within these teams we climbed and camped in pairs.

Before dinner each evening the expedition leader, Pat Cullinan, conducted a briefing for the next day. Pat has had many years of experience both as a commando and climber. Tall and wiry, he seems to possess inner strength to cope with heavy loads, as well as the burdens of leadership. Grouped in the tent, listening to Pat giving instructions from his little green army note book, it was not hard to imagine being part of an elaborate military exercise.

Team One comprised Zac Zacharias, Terry McCullagh, Jim Van Gelder, Jim Truscott, Brian Agnew, and Peter Lambert. It was a very fit and talented group. Mike Rheinberger and I were part of the second team which included our doctor, Tony Delaney, Pat Cullinan, Mick Pezet, and Derek Murphy. Rick Moor and Norm Crookston ran a very efficient Base Camp.

Our team included four majors, five captains, one sergeant, and two corporals. Initially I was unsure how this 'top heavy' group would operate, but on the climb the formal structure was rarely a problem—indeed it probably helped our large party to move smoothly.

Establishing ourselves on the mountain involved careful route-finding through a series of badly crevassed slopes. We also had to contend with the others sharing the route, and at times the traffic on the fixed ropes was quite hair-raising. On one occasion as I climbed to Camp Two I glanced down to see our second team

alive somewhere on the mountain, but that the others in the party had perished. Mike and Tony set off to K2 Base Camp to help in the search. They returned that night, having helped carry the badly frostbitten Diemberger on a makeshift stretcher back to Base Camp. As they recounted the grim circumstances that led to the deaths of the six others, including Britons Julie Tullis and Alan Rouse, a pall seemed to come over our camp.

Already it had been one of the most ill-fated seasons in the Karakoram. The death toll on K2 alone was 13 people. For several days after this latest tragedy I



descending the steepest section of the route. A German party was also using the same rope, and inadvertently sending down showers of rock. It was like a shooting range, with stones and the occasional fist-sized rock hurtling down. As the two teams separated, the worst seemed to be over, but suddenly there was a sharp crack, and an explosion of rocks rattled down from near the half-way anchor on the fixed rope. After a few frantic seconds of clattering and yelling the danger had passed. By some miracle no one was hurt, although Pat had been right in the firing line.

Although eager to 'push' the route higher, many of us were still adapting to the altitude and the rigors of load carrying. Bad weather gave our bodies valuable time to catch up, during which time a tragedy was unfolding nearby, on K2. A large group of climbers, from five different teams, had set off up the Abruzzi Ridge. For ten days, during which storms raged on the mountain, there was no news of their progress. Then we received word from a passing porter that one of the missing party, Austrian Willi Bauer, had staggered in to the K2 Base Camp with the news that Kurt Diemberger was still

found it increasingly difficult to find the commitment I needed if I was to have any hope of success on Broad Peak.

In spite of diabolical weather, and the problems of acclimatization and illness experienced by some members of the expedition, we still maintained a strong presence on the mountain. Undoubtedly the group size and the careful planning played a major part in our progress. By mid-August we were poised for the summit. An advance party with Jim, Brian, Terry, Zac, and Jim had moved to Camp Four at 7,500 metres. At 5 am on 16 August, Pat, Mike and I set off from Camp Three to join the others. With some tracks to follow the going was not too difficult, but the intense cold began to take its toll. Within minutes the metal head of my ice axe had drained the warmth from my hands. Every ten steps I stopped and tried to coax some blood into my numb fingers. It was a four-hour grind to Camp Four, first up a broad snowfield, then across beneath a towering serac. Arriving at the huddle of tents, we were welcomed by Jim and Terry. They had set off for the col at 5 am but found the -24°C cold too much, and returned to camp. Our arrival coincided with that of the first rays of sun. We quickly

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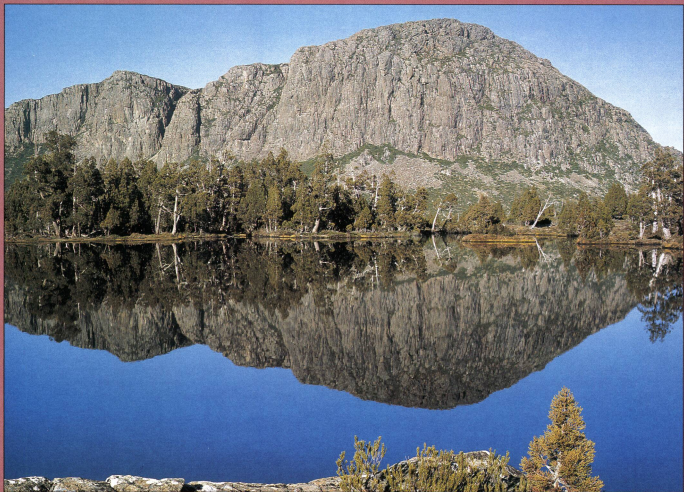
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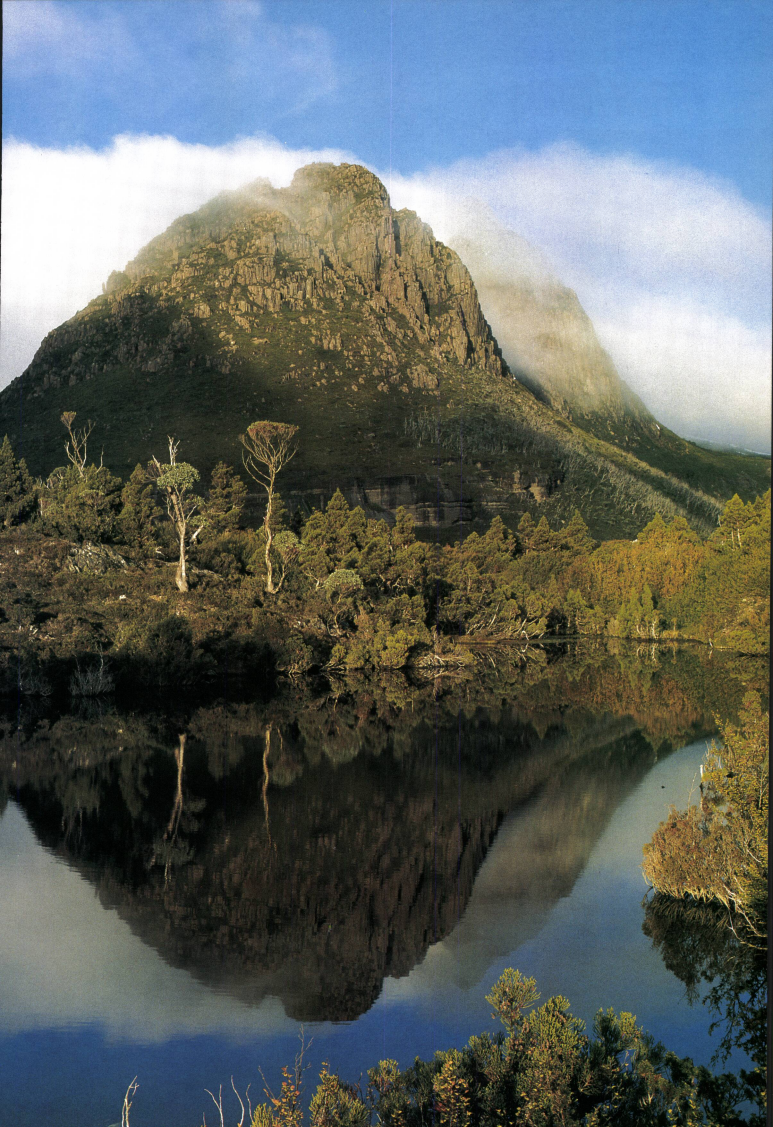
Sunrise on the Walls of Jerusalem. **Right**, streamlet near Liffey.
All photos were taken in Tasmania's Central Highlands.

Dennis Harding





Pandani forest on Mt Rufus. **Right**, morning light on the Little Horn.



Track Notes



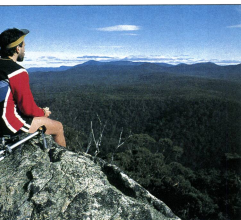
Walking the Threatened Forest

David Poland explores a paradise 'west of Eden'

• THIS YEAR MAY WELL BE THE LAST CHANCE to see the magnificent and little-known wilderness of Coolangubra. Situated near Eden on the south coast of New South Wales, 48,000 hectares of forest lie largely undisturbed, as it has for aeons. Few bushwalkers have heard of this spectacular area, that is until recently.

The region encompasses a rich variety of terrain, from rugged granite mountains with far-reaching views to deep and narrow gorges which rarely see the sun. Waterfalls are frequent and spectacular.

Just as diverse are the forests, ranging from rainforest in the steep gullies, to open, easy-walking forest on the ridges. Tall, moist shining



Left, in Myanba Gorge. **Above**, the view from Mataganah over the Coolangubra wilderness to White Rock Mountain. **Right**, Myanba Creek. All photos Poland

gum support some of the best arboreal mammal habitats in Australia.

Only a small fraction of this wilderness is protected as National Park. The remainder will be clear-felled for woodchips if current plans receive government approval.

Walking in the area is generally easy, through open forest. Occasional scrub patches on south-facing slopes can be avoided. (The White Rock area is rugged.) Creeks are fairly easy to follow. Campsites are common. Planning your own route is fairly easy, but this article gives some suggestions. There is only one walking track in the area.

Maps. *Eden Forestry Map* 1:125,000 (essential for roads). *Coolumbooka, Nalbaugh, Wyndham*, and *Burragate* sheets in the Central Mapping Authority of NSW 1:25,000 series.

Access. Located 35 kilometres due west of Eden, the area can be reached by car in about six hours from Sydney, or two-and-a-half from Canberra. Access routes: **1** from Bombala via Burrimbucco Road, **2** from Cathcart via Coolangubra Forest Way, **3** from Bega via Candelo, Wyndham, and Big Jack Mountain Road, **4** from Eden via Imlay Forest Way, or **5** from Victoria via the Cann Valley Highway.



Day Walks

There are two good possibilities for base camps from which to explore. The first is near Waratah Creek, at grid reference 126016. This is an ideal base, with camping within 200 metres of the car, from which to explore the west. From Cathcart, drive south along Coolangubra Forest Way. Turn left 1.6 kilometres past the Wog Way Junction, into Waratah Road. Six hundred metres along this is a small, rough track on the left, which leads to a pleasant clearing. The second campsite is a good base from which to explore the north-east and is 50 metres east of Reedy Creek on Big Jack

Mountain Road.

Waratah Creek. From the first base camp easy day walks can be made up and down Waratah Creek. The area abounds in arboreal mammals, and is a very photogenic moist forest. Logging is already taking place nearby.

Myanba Falls. Leave the car on Wog Way at the saddle at 150022 about two kilometres east of an unmarked and unmapped road junction at 134023, where you should have taken the right-hand fork. An easy spur leads down to Myanba Creek at 158040. Follow the creek to cascades at 168052, then to spectacular falls at 175054 and views to Bruin

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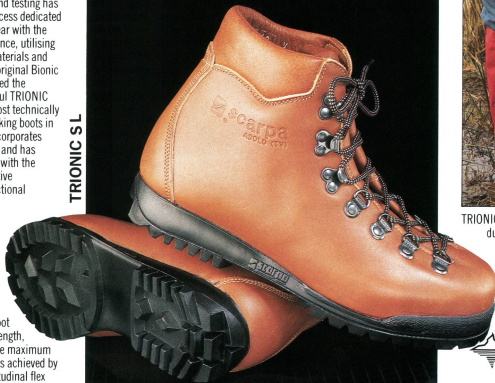
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Track Notes

Mountain. Return by the same route (seven hours return).

Pheasants Peak. Leave the car at the end of Wog Wog Way (157017). Follow Wog Wog Trail to the peak.

Wog Wog Trail. Leave the car as for the previous walk, but follow Wog Wog Trail (closed to cars) to the north-east for an easy walk to view tall open forest and granite boulders.

Mataganah (259047). This vantage point gives excellent 270° views of most of the Coolangubra area and as far as Victoria. Approach from spurs at 275052 or 275046 which can be reached from a fire track from Big Jack Mountain Road at 291051 and leading to the creek at 283046. The last 100 metres of the climb is steep and scrubby. The return trip takes six hours. (An alternative is to return via Reedy Creek.)

Reedy Creek is a wide, dryish creek requiring boulder-hopping. Campsites are

uncommon. Mataganah can be reached fairly easily by a rainforest creek at 258033. The return trip takes eight hours.

Overnight walks

Good overnight trips can be made by combining some of the above day-walks.

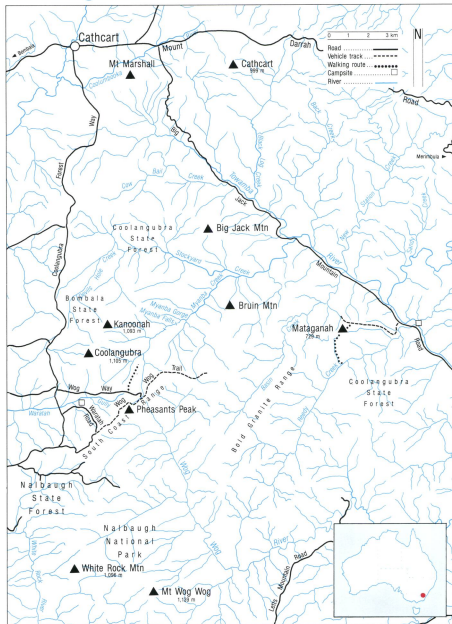
Myanba Gorge. Walk to Myanba Falls (as above). Continue past the falls, into a narrow gorge (178055)—slow going. Return via the creek at 184053 to Wog Wog Trail, which is followed.

Mataganah Circuit. Combine the last two day-walks suggested above by walking up Reedy Creek and returning via the pleasant and open Bold Granite Range.

Extended walks

Almost anything is possible: Stockyard Creek has waterfalls and gorges, Wog Wog Creek has moist forest, and for the experienced, White Rock Mountain offers plenty of rugged terrain. ●

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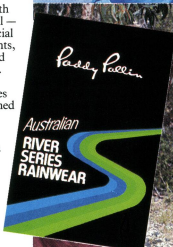
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Hokkaido, Japan. Photo Mike
Edmonson, Paddy's Jindabyne.

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THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE

Australia's Major Rockclimbing Areas

Wild Activities Survey

A crag tour with Stephen Bunton

● AUSTRALIA IS A ROCKCLIMBER'S PARADISE. Our wide, brown land is a far cry from the green valleys and snowy mountains of other continents that have traditionally been the alpinist's playground. Australia is an ancient land, worn down, almost flat, over millions of years, yet there are still sufficient craggy ranges to support an enthusiastic and vibrant climbing population. Although the landscape changes slowly through the aeons, the game of climbing has evolved rapidly in recent times. Climbers' interests have diverged from the lure of the peaks and, as rockclimbing has become more technical, attention has focused on the warm, dry cliffines scattered across Australia. Venues such as Mt Arapiles have taken a prominent place in world climbing. With Chamonix, Yosemite, and Verdon, which in turn have attracted the best climbers of the day, Mt Arapiles is on the world-tour itinerary. Today numerous rock stars visit Australia to push their standards, lift ours, and to enjoy the unique subculture of Australian rockclimbing.

Rockclimbers generally have their own favourite crag, where they spend much of their time and energy. Accessibility often dictates where they will climb regularly, but occasionally they feel the urge to move on to try other areas. There is infinite potential for rockclimbing in Australia. This survey aims to summarize details of Australia's most popular and renowned climbing areas.

Those wishing to start rockclimbing would be well advised to consult the Getting Started article on rockclimbing in *Wild* no 8 and the Activities Survey, 'Rockclimbing and Abseiling', in *Wild* no 16. The best work on Australian rockclimbing is the book *Classic Climbs of Australia* by Joe Friend (Second Back Row Press, 1983), which outlines, roughly, the state of play up until the end of the 1970s. There have been several attempts to produce a regular rockclimbing periodical over the years. Issues of *Thrutch*, *Peaks*, and *Screamer* may prove of interest in planning your next vertical sojourn. Today only *Rock* survives as a specialist periodical reference source for rockclimbing in Australia.

There are hundreds of crags in Australia which have come to the attention of climbers. Some have been popularized by guidebooks, others overpopularized and overpopulated, whilst others never warranted any attention. Areas covered include the most popular and significant rockclimbing venues in each State.

The location of any area is given in relation to the nearest town. If a climbing area is marked on maps by another name I have attempted to include that as well. For example Frog Buttress is part of Mt French. I have also indicated if the area listed is part of a bigger region (Mt Piddington, for example, is part of the Blue Mountains), or whether it comprises a number of cliffs, such as the Warrumbungles, in which case the main cliffs are listed.



Scott Camps climbing Blimp (21), Bundaleer, Victoria.
Andrew Corlass

In considering the **nature of climbs** in an area, the type of rock has the greatest bearing upon the quality of any climbing experience. It determines not only the nature or character of the climbs, but also the style of the climbing and the number of routes. Climbers generally

seek solid cliffines with sound holds and protection. Igneous rocks, such as granite and dolerite, usually have these attributes. Climbing on these rock types can be repetitive, since the line of ascent is often dictated by the jointing of the rock. Climbing on these rock types often depends upon jamming techniques. Granite has more rounded edges and is less steep than dolerite. This tendency to rounded rock tends,

in the extreme, to produce slabs—the other type of climbing for which granite is famous. Metamorphosed sedimentary rocks have the reliably solid character of igneous rock types, but fewer jointing cracks to provide obvious lines of ascent. Face climbing is more prevalent in such areas, and often presents difficulties for the placement of protection. Both the climbing and placement of protection require imagination, and this contributes greatly to interesting and varied climbing. Sedimentary sandstones have great potential for both crack climbing and face climbing, and are usually solid enough not to induce too much terror.

In Australia most climbs are done with a single 50 metre x 11 millimetre rope, or double 50 metre x 9 millimetre ropes, linking a party of two climbers. Many climbs are short, 25 metres or less, and a single rope can be doubled and used for descent by abseil (some abseil descents require two ropes), although in the vast majority of climbing areas, of all heights, descent is made by walking down one end of the cliff, or by some other handy walking route. Multi-pitch climbs usually involve several short pitches, and several of these routes can be undertaken in a day. Long free climbs are multi-pitch climbs of several hundred metres' length or of such seriousness that only one is likely to be undertaken in a day. Big-wall routes require extensive aid-climbing techniques and

more than one day to complete the route.

The **number of climbs** in an area is the best indicator of the popularity of an area, its all-round quality, and your prospect for enjoyment.

The **classic climbs** listed are the climbs that I want to do or the climbs I have done and thoroughly enjoyed. I make no apologies if my tastes do not match those of the reader nor the local pundits. Any such listing will obviously be highly subjective, but none of the routes selected is likely to be a disappointment.

The **features** of a climbing area include notes of any unusual characteristics or points of interest of the area. If an area is subject to extreme seasonal conditions, such as snow cover in winter (as at Blue Lake and Mt Buffalo), this will also generally be noted.

Depending on the accessibility of a crag, it may or may not be necessary to camp in the vicinity. If a crag is too close to civilization there may be no **camping** possible in the area. In most bushland areas camping is basic, with open fires, no toilets, ants, and blowflies. Areas such as Mt Arapiles have semi-developed camping facilities such as water on tap, toilets, and even more flies and other pests. Mt Buffalo is an example of an area with developed camping facilities, including showers, and a cafe. Camping in such areas is heavily regulated, usually has to be paid for, and frequently has to be booked well in advance.

There are numerous crags across Australia with the only monument to those who have scaled them being a few Fordograph sheets stapled between cardboard covers. These have become collectors' items, generally by those whose exploits are recorded in them! As climbing has become more commercialized, and the market has expanded, it has become worthwhile for enterprising individuals to update, slick-up, and republish **guidebooks** and information. Guidebooks seem to be out of date before they are printed. To supplement these guides, updates to popular and important areas have appeared in periodical publications such as *Rock*. I have listed only the most recent guidebook available for each area, together with any updates.

Certainly Mt Arapiles has shaped the face of Australian rockclimbing for over a decade. Indeed, one could be excused for thinking that there are no other cliffs in Australia, but do not be hoodwinked into thinking that it is the only crag in the country worth climbing. The potential for rockclimbing in Australia is as broad as our sunburnt land. The only limit to enjoyment and new routes is the enthusiasm of the participant. ●

Stephen Burton (see Contributors in Wild no 6) is Wild's Contributing Editor for caving. An experienced rockclimber and mountaineer, he has climbed, as well as caved, in many parts of Australia and in several overseas countries.

Wild Activities Survey Australia's Major Rockclimbing Areas

| Area | Location | Nature of climbs | No of climbs | Classic climbs | Features | Camping | Guidebooks |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
| Northern Territory | | | | | | | |
| Ayers Rock | 450 km SW of Alice Springs. Easy access | Hard sandstone. Steep, unprotected slabs and a classic chimney: The Kangaroo Tail | Few | The Kangaroo Tail (16) | Australia's most famous mountain feature. Desert location. Hot all year round | Developed | None |
| Queensland | | | | | | | |
| Frog Buttress | Mt French National Park. 8 km W of Boonah. Easy access | Columnar rhyolite. Short climbs of all difficulties. Mostly crack climbing | Several hundred | Castor (16), Infinity (19), Conquistador (21), Child in Time (22), Stand in Line (27) | Famous jamming gymnasium. Fine weather all year round but hot and humid in summer | Semi-developed | <i>Frog Buttress</i> by Joe Lynch |
| Girraween | Girraween National Park, 4 km N of Wallangarra on the northern NSW border. Includes Mt Norman and the Pyramids. Easy access | Granite. Short climbs of moderate difficulty. Crack and slab climbing | Over 100 | Other Dimensions (16), Late Afternoon Flake (18), Sticky Fingers (21) | Unusual granite formations scattered over a wide area. Cold in winter | Semi-developed | None |
| Glasshouse Mountains | 90 km N of Brisbane. Includes the spires of Mt Beerwah, Mt Lindsay, Crookneck and Tibrogargan. Easy access | Rhyolite and trachyte (volcanic plugs). Long climbs generally of moderate difficulty. Crack and face climbing | Over 50 | East Crookneck (16), Clemency (16), Flameout (17), Paras and Quads (22), Raptures (25) | Prominent isolated pinnacles attractive to 'summit baggers'. Warm and humid all year round | Basic | <i>A Guide to the Glasshouse Mountains</i> by Rick White (out of print) |
| Shady Buttress | 25 km SE of Boonah, on Knappa Peak. Easy access | Rhyolite. One- and two-pitch face climbs, mainly in the higher grades with well-spaced (bolt) protection | About 100 | Whip (18), Stole the S-Bend (20), Rustox (25) | Cool face-climbing in Queensland! | Basic, no water | <i>Lady Shady</i> by Scott & Stewart Camps (Scott & Stewart Camps, 1996) (private guide) |
| New South Wales | | | | | | | |
| Balls Pyramid | 21 km SE of Lord Howe Island. Access by small boat | Volcanic breccia. Long, serious routes with much vegetation and some loose rock | 3 | South-east Ridge (14) | A spectacular pinnacle rising 564 m out of the Pacific Ocean. Climbing currently banned | None (no fresh water) | None |
| Blue Lake | 5 km W of Charlotte Pass in Kosciuszko National Park. 2 hours' walk with full pack | Granite. Short crack climbs | Less than 50 | Dihedral Corner (13), Mindcenter (19) | A good beginners' area. Covered in snow during winter. Cliffs and gullies provide good ice climbing when in condition. Cool in summer with occasional remnant snowdrifts | Basic. Boil all water taken from the lake | <i>Climbing in the Snowy Mountains</i> by Warwick Williams (University of New South Wales Mountaineering Club, 1973) (out of print) |
| Bungonia Gorge | 30 km E of Goulburn. Walk to the base of the gorge via the tourist tracks (1 hour) | Marine limestone. Long free climbs (300 m) of difficulty and great seriousness | Less than 50 | Old and Grey (20), Rum, Bum, and Gramophones (21), Strangeness and Charm (22), Jewel Box (23) | 'A poor man's Verdon', only recently becoming popular | Developed. Bungonia Gorges Reserve | None |

Wild Activities Survey

Wild Activities Survey Australia's Major Rockclimbing Areas

| Area | Location | Nature of climbs | No of climbs | Classic climbs | Features | Camping | Guidebooks |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| Cosmic County | 20 km NW of Mt Victoria. Part of the Blue Mountains. Easy access | Soft sandstone. Short, hard free climbs. Mostly faces, and some cracks. Few easy climbs | Over 100 | I'd Rather Be Sailing (16), Interstate 31 (17), Waking Wooded (22), Toyland (25) | Often hot in summer. Cold in winter | Basic. No water | <i>A Climbers' Guide to the Northern Harrier Valley</i> by Andrew Penney (Andrew Penney, 1981) |
| Dogface | 5 km SW of Katoomba. Part of the Blue Mountains. Walk-in access from the Scenic Railway | Very soft sandstone. Several free climbs but mostly long aid climbs mixed with some free sections. Very serious undertakings | Less than 50 | Gorgon (17, M4), Colossus (M6) | A big-wall area. Several cracks dissect this scar of a 1931 landslide | None | <i>The Dogface Guide</i> by Warwick Williams (Sydney Rockclimbing Club, 1974) (out of print) |
| Gara Gorge | 20 km S of Armidale | Granite. Short multi-pitch climbs. Mostly free with some aid climbs. Range of difficulties | Several hundred | Country Bumpkin (14), Serenity (17), Ambrosia (19), The Great Escape (22) | Dry climate makes the area devoid of seeping cracks and slimy streaks often found in other granite areas | Basic | <i>Climbers Guide to the NE Tablelands</i> by John Lattanzio & Greg Pitchard (University of New England Mountaineering Club, 1981) |
| Kaputar National Park | 50 km E of Narrabri. Includes many excellent cliffs such as those on the Governor, Eughah Rock, and Mt Kaputar. Easy access to some cliffs, others more difficult | Trachyte volcanic plugs. Mostly two-three pitches, grade 17-22 | Several hundred | Seaview (14), Steel Dance (18), Iconoclast (20), Pump and Circumstance (22), White Heat (24) | Impressive peaks (in a wilderness setting in some cases). Very cold in winter | Developed and basic campsites | <i>Climbers Guide to Kaputar</i> by Mark Colvany & John Lattanzio (Colvany and Lattanzio, 1982) |
| MT Piddington | 3 km S of Mt Victoria. Part of the Blue Mountains. Easy access | Soft sandstone. Short one- or two-pitch climbs of all difficulties. Mainly crack climbs with faces and aretes providing the more difficult routes | Several hundred | The Carthaginian (13), Tombstone Wall (15), Flake Crack (17), The Eternity (20), The Jancopets (21), Psychodrama (23) | The most popular cliff in NSW, with numerous test-pieces which set the standard of the 1960s. Hot in summer, cold in winter | Basic. Under sandstone overhangs at the car-park or in the gully S of the car-park. Water tank at the look-out | <i>A Climber's Guide to Mt Piddington</i> by Andrew Penney & Mike Law (Sydney Rockclimbing Club, 1982) |
| Narrow Neck | 6 km SW of Katoomba. Part of the Blue Mountains. Easy access | Soft sandstone. Short or multi-pitch climbs of all difficulties. Crack and face climbing | Over 100 | Tai (13), Toll (16), Zacerius (19), Katschendale (21) | Many old aid climbs which have been freed | Basic. Accommodation in the notorious Pyscivalves or Waterfall Cave | <i>The Rockclimbs of Narrow Neck</i> by Andrew Penney (Thrutch magazine, 1978) |
| Sydney Sea Cliffs | Includes all coastal crags in the vicinity of the city, from Palm Beach to Botany Bay. Easy access | Very soft sandstone. Short or multi-pitch climbs, mostly hard and scary | Several hundred | The Fear (17), Cruise or d. Phoenix (17), The Neighbours Think (22) | Lots of salt-encrusted and honeycombed, weathered rock. Suited to all-year-round climbing and people who like that kind of thing | None | <i>Sydney Suburbs and Sea Cliffs</i> by Andrew Penney & Mike Law (Rock magazine, 1987) |
| Warrumbungle National Park | 32 km W of Conabarbarian. Includes the volcanic spires of Crater Bluff, Beaugrey Spire, Bluff Mountain, and Tondurion | Trachyte volcanic plugs. Long, mostly middle-grade routes | About 100 | Lieben (17), Flight of the Phoenix (17), Caucasus Corner (17) | Individual summits provide a sense of having climbed a real mountain. Hot during summer and always cold at night | Developed and semi-developed campsites | <i>Rock Climbing in the Warrumbungles</i> by Joe Friend (Thrutch magazine, 1976) |
| Wolgan Valley | 20 km N of Lithgow. Part of the Blue Mountains. Easy access from the settlement of Newnes. Includes the Coke Ovens, and Old Baldy. | Soft sandstone. Multi-pitch free climbs of all difficulties | Several hundred | Diarrhoea Chimney (9), Somitar (18), Sizzler (19), The Wars of the Roses (20) | The best multi-pitch climbs within easy reach of Sydney. Cold in winter. Choose your cliff to suit the season. Old Baldy faces S (summer) and the Coke Ovens face N (winter) | Basic. Boil the water from the river | <i>The Wolgan Guide</i> by Pete Taylor & Andrew Penney (Sydney Rockclimbing Club, 1984) |
| Australian Capital Territory | | | | | | | |
| Booroomba Rocks | 45 km SW of Canberra, near Honeyeater Creek Tracking Station. Easy access from campsite | Granite. Short or multi-pitch crack climbs. Longer slab climbs. All difficulties | Several hundred | Sunstroke (9), Equilibrium (17), Integral Crack (20) | A premier granite and slab-climbing area. Hot in summer | Basic. No water | <i>Granite Climbs in the ACT</i> by A J Wood (Australian National University Mountaineering Club, 1976). <i>More Granite Climbs in the ACT</i> by Tim Chapman (ANUMC, 1983). <i>Granite Climbs in the ACT—1986 Update</i> by John Carlson & Mike Peck (Carlson & Peck, 1986) |
| Victoria | | | | | | | |
| Bundaleer | 15 km W of Halls Gap. Part of the Grampians. Easy access | Sandstone. Mostly short crack climbs of all grades, and hard walls and roofs | Less than 100 | Gerontian (16), Odysseus (18), Blimp (21), Angular Perspective (27) | Strong lines in 'moody' surroundings: gritstone-like rock | Basic, cave. The water supply may dry up during a long dry period | <i>Central Grampians</i> by Chris Baxter (Victorian Climbing Club, 1977) (out of print). <i>Bundaleer</i> by Gann Bengert (Rock magazine, 1984) (out of print) |
| Mt Arapiles | 25 km W of Horsham. Easy access | Metamorphosed sandstone. Short and multi-pitch climbs of all difficulties and styles. Steep face climbing with good protection a specialty | Over 2,000 | Arachnus (8), D Minor (13), Missing Link (17), Stranger's Eliminate (20), Kachooing (21), Anxiety Neurosis (26), Punks in the Gym (32) | Australia's premier climbing location. Very hot in summer, cool in winter | Semi-developed. Firewood is often a problem in the Pines campsite. Camping restricted to this area | <i>Arapiles—A Rockclimbers' Handbook</i> by Kim Carrigan (Victorian Climbing Club, 1983). <i>Mt Arapiles Update</i> by Kim Carrigan (Rock magazine, 1985). <i>Mt Arapiles Update 2</i> by Chris Baxter (Rock magazine, 1987) |
| Mt Buffalo | 30 km S of Porepunkah. Generally easy access but some longer approaches, including abseil approaches | Granite. Short crack climbs. Long free and aid routes in the gorge. Few easy climbs. Most are difficult and serious undertakings | Several hundred | Devilled Cream (13), Maharajah (17), Sultan (20), Hard Rain (22), El Supremo (25), Ozymandias Direct (M4), Lord Guntree (M6) | Australia's best granite area—many cliffs. The North Wall of the Mt Buffalo Gorge is Australia's best 'big wall' area, with several of the longest and hardest aid routes in the country. Area covered in snow during winter | Developed | <i>Mt Buffalo, A Rockclimbers Guide</i> by Jeremy Boreham & Kevin Lindorff (Boreham & Lindorff, 1983) |

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Wild Activities Survey Australia's Major Rockclimbing Areas

| Area | Location | Nature of climbs | No of climbs | Classic climbs | Features | Camping | Guidebooks |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|--|---|---|---|
| Mt Rosa | 10 km SW of Halls Gap. Part of the Grampians. Easy access | Metamorphosed sandstone. Three- and four-pitch climbs of all grades | Less than 100 | Debutante (14), Diane (17), Martin Eden (19), The Ascension (21) | Some of the best multi-pitch sandstone climbing in Australia. Wet in winter | Basic | Central Grampians by Chris Baxter (Victorian Climbing Club, 1977) (out of print) |
| Mt Staplyton | 20 km SW of Hovsham. Part of the Grampians. Easy access | Metamorphosed sandstone. Climbs of all grades, mostly short and many inferior, but the good ones are excellent | Several hundred | Simpleton (17), Sandinista (22), The Seventh Pillar (23, M1), The Great Divide (26) | Several cliffs, providing a popular alternative to nearby Mt Arapiles. Tapan Wall is an extraordinary feature | Basic | Climbers Handbook to Mount Staplyton and Immediate Areas by Bill Andrews (Victorian Climbing Club, 1985) |
| Tasmania | | | | | | | |
| Ben Lomond | 60 km SE of Launceston. Includes Stacks Bluff and Frews Flutes. Generally easy access | Columnar dolerite. Multi-pitch climbs of a more difficult nature. Steep, strenuous, and sustained crack climbing | Several hundred | Solaris (17), Rock-a-Day Johnny (18), Brother Jack Straw (20), Rigaudon (20), Defender of the Faith (21) | Great potential for new routes. Area covered in snow during winter. Some snow and ice climbing | Basic | Ben Lomond—An Interim Guide by Robert McMahon (Robert McMahon) (private guide) |
| Coles Bay | 45 km S of Bicheno. Includes Whitewater Wall, the Hazards, Mt Amos and Cape Tourville. Easy access | Granite. Short crack climbs of all difficulties, and long slab climbs, particularly on the Hazards | About 100 | Out of the Blue (13), Bewulf (17), Pourouli (19) | Very popular. Sunny all year round. Some areas can be dangerous during big seas | Basic, above Whitewater Wall (no water), and developed, in Coles Bay township | None |
| Federation Peak | South-west Tasmania, via Geveeston. Two days' rugged walk from Farnborough Creek | Quartzite. Multi-pitch climbs of moderate difficulty. Exposed face climbing in a very remote setting | Less than 20 | North-east Corner (12), Golden Dieder (17), Blade Ridge/North-west Face (17) | Australia's most alpine summit. Extreme weather possible all year round. Covered in snow during winter. The Blade Ridge/North-west Face is one of Australia's longest and most spectacular climbs | Basic, on Bechevalaise Plateau or Thwaites Plateau | A Climbers Guide to Federation Peak (Climbers' Club of Tasmania, 1969) (out of print) |
| Flinders Island | Bass Strait. Includes Killiecrankie and Mt Strack. Access moderate to difficult | Granite. Smooth-grained cracks and huge slabs | About 200 | A Christmas Carol (16), Killiecrankie (18), Titanic (21), Tapan (21) | The Mt Strickie area has enormous potential for big and serious new routes | Basic | Killiecrankie Guide 1986 by Steve Craddock (Alison & Steve Craddock, 1986) (private guide). Flinders Island: A Climber's Interim Guide by Iain Sedgman (Victorian Climbing Club, 1981) (out of print) |
| Frenchmans Cap | A hard day's walk from the Lyell Highway, 54 km SW of Queenstown | Quartzite. Long climbs of a more difficult nature. Steep, serious slab climbing with some loose and wet rock | About 50 | The Sydney Route (15), The Chimes of Freedom (16), La Grande Pump (21), The Great Flake (22) | Extreme weather possible all year round. Covered in snow in winter. A remote and dramatic area | Lake Tahune Hut | A Climbers' Guide to Frenchmans Cap by Phil Robinson (Climbers' Club of Tasmania, 1979) |
| Mt Geryon and the Acropolis | Cradle Mountain—Lake St Clair National Park. One day's walk from Naricussus hut at the N end of Lake St Clair | Columnar dolerite. Long slab climbs of moderate difficulty with some loose and vegetated rock | Less than 40 | Mt Geryon Traverse (14, A1), Orion (17), Old Wave Heroes (21), Black Man's Country (22) | Extreme weather possible all year round. Covered in snow in winter. Some snow and ice climbing possible | Basic, on Capichius Creek or in cave under E Face of Mt Geryon | 'Mt Geryon and the Acropolis' by Chris Baxter (Rock magazine, 1984) (out of print) |
| The Organ Pipes, Mt Wellington | 17 km W of Hobart. Easy access | Columnar dolerite. Multi-pitch crack climbs of all difficulties | Several hundred | Fiddlisticks (14), Chancellor Direct (17), Canis (19), Battle Cruiser (20), Sky Rocket (23) | The most accessible major crag to an Australian city. Cold, wet and often snow-covered in winter. Long daylight hours in summer | None | The Organ Pipes Mount Wellington by Phil Robinson & Martin Stone (Climbers' Club of Tasmania, 1981) |
| Tasman Peninsula | 100 km SE of Hobart. Includes Cape Huay and Cape Raoul. One day's walk from near Port Arthur | Dolerite columns. Multi-pitch free and aid climbs of moderate standard. Crack climbing. Serious undertakings | Few | The Candlestick (15), The Totem Pole (M6) | Spectacular sea-stack and sea-cliff climbing in wild, exposed locations. Considerable potential | Basic | None |
| South Australia | | | | | | | |
| Moonarie | Flinders Ranges, 42 km N of Hawker. Easy access | Metamorphosed sandstone. Short and multi-pitch climbs of all difficulties. Crack and slab climbing | Several hundred | Nervine (12), Hangover Layback (15), Pine Crack (16), Dry Land (22), Snakes and Ladders (24) | 'Mt Arapiles without the crowd' | Basic, no water | Moonarie—A Rock-Climbers Guide by Tony Barker & Quentin Chester (The Climbing Club of South Australia, 1983) |
| Western Australia | | | | | | | |
| South Coast | Many places near Albany. Easy to moderate access | Crystalline granite. Short and multi-pitch climbs | Less than 100 | Better Than Expected (13), Surf's Up (15), Flaked Out (20), Fear No Evil (24) | Can be dangerous in heavy seas | Developed sites in Albany | A Rock Climbing Guide to Granite Regions in Southern WA by Richard Rathbone & Mike Smith (Climbers Association of WA, 1982) |
| Stirling Ranges | 350 km S of Perth. Many cliffs, most with seaward (scrubby) access | Shale and sandstone. Steep slab climbing of up to 300 m. Mostly easy to moderate. Some loose rock | Over 200 | Hell Fire Gully (13), Coercion (16), Capital Seizure (19) | Cold and wet in winter. Benignities common | Developed National Park site near Bluff Knoll. Little water elsewhere | A Rock Climbing Guide to the Stirling Range Part A (east) and B (west) by Mike Smith & Richard Rathbone (Climbers Association of Western Australia, 1982) |
| West Cape Howe | 40 km W of Albany. Four-wheel-drive or long walk from road | Crystalline granite. Sea cliffs with one- or two-pitch climbs generally in the higher grades | Less than 50 | Police Brutality (14), Vintage (18), Picking Indices (22), Corruption in High Places (23) | The best climbing in WA but infrequently visited because of its distance from Perth. Great potential | Developed sites in Albany | (As for South Coast) |
| Willabyrup | 15 km NW of Margaret River. Written permission required to cross private land, or a one-hour walk round it | Granite/gneiss. Varied, single-pitch climbing of all grades. Some loose rock | About 100 | Banana Split (14), Corpus Delicti (17), Mob Job (20), KGB (26) | One of WA's most popular crags. Caving, surfing and wine-growing nearby! | None at the cliffs. Developed—Colray Caravan Park (4 km S) | None |

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Stoves

Wild Gear Survey

Buying a stove without burning your fingers; with James Adams

● STOVES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE increasingly imperative 'take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints' ethic, and are mandatory equipment in alpine environments.

Most stoves are designed to burn a specific fuel. Choosing the most appropriate fuel for your needs is the first decision to make when buying a stove.

Butane (Camping Gaz). Simply light a match, turn a knob, and a quiet burner instantly produces a hot, controlled flame, at a price.

Butane is a gas, liquefied by compression, and stored under pressure in sealed cartridges. When the stove valve is opened, the liquid butane 'boils' and vapour is released into the burner. Output depends on canister temperature and atmospheric pressure. Canisters should only be warmed with body heat.

Butane boils, or vaporizes, at 0°C at sea level, -4°C on the summit of Mt Kosciuszko, and -17°C on the summit of Mt Everest. Butane stoves are not reliable in cold places because they only work when several degrees warmer than their fuel's boiling point. They are, however, useful for travelling and occasional week-end walks, and, subject to temperature, at high altitude.

Butane canisters are usually available in larger cities around the world. They are expensive and present a disposal problem. Butane costs between two and ten times more than the other fuels represented in the survey.

Always check that old canisters are empty and that the O-ring of a new canister is in good condition before changing canisters. Butane sometimes leaks from canisters, so carry a spare. Volatile fuels, especially butane canisters, should never be carried on aircraft.

Kerosene (paraffin) is the most ubiquitous stove fuel in the world. It is relatively dirty, with an unfortunately penetrating odour. Low volatility makes kerosene stoves safe to operate but difficult to start. Pre-heating is achieved by a variety of methods.

The Optimus 00 Camper disassembles and packs down into a small package and requires a separate pre-heating fuel. Daerim stoves have a unique fuel atomizer with flint igniter to heat the main burner.

Methylated spirits is clean, convenient, and relatively safe. Its heat output for weight, however, is only a little more than half that of the other fuels. Methylated spirits burns with a long, relatively cool and, at times, invisible flame. (Make sure the stove has been extinguished before refuelling.) Alcohol stoves need very efficient windshields to concentrate heat around the billy. For this reason most alcohol stoves come with an integrated cookset.

While overturning a burning Trangia can be serious, as the fuel is burnt in an open 'pot' burner, and an overfilled Optimus Trapper dribbles burning fuel on to the ground, these stoves are relatively safe and reliable, and ideal for unsupervised, inexperienced people.

Multi-fuel stoves burn a range of fuels, solving the problem of availability of any one.

The MSR XGK burns petrol, Shellite, kerosene, and just about any fuel except alcohol (unless it is blended with an equal quantity of Shellite). (Methylated spirits burns at about two-thirds the speed of the other fuels for which the

dangerous procedure.

Stoves with integral or accessory-pumps are easiest and safest to light. Other stoves must be pre-heated to build up pressure, and are called self-generating stoves. Pre-heating is



Plate, left, pot and ported burners. Adams

stove is designed. As fuel delivery to the burner exceeds the rate of its combustion, the methylated spirits blows itself out.)

The Optimus 199 Ranger also burns a range of fuels, including methylated spirits, has better heat control, and packs into a more convenient shape than the XGK.

Shellite (white gasoline, white spirit, lighter fluid) is a traditional bushwalking stove fuel. It is clean, cheap, and efficient. Shellite is highly volatile and should be handled with great care. Shellite is also a useful solvent and dissolves cross country ski wax. (Cleaning skis with Shellite is a chilly experience.)

Shellite stoves can generate a lot of heat and are ideal for thawing water from snow.

Where Shellite is unavailable, standard-grade or unleaded petrol is a reasonable, though less reliable, alternative.

Fuel tanks should only be two-thirds filled. Many tanks have small openings and are easily overfilled. Spilt fuel is not only a fire risk, but can be harmful to fabric proofing. Liquid-fuel fires are difficult to contain because most liquid fuels float on water. Try smothering the fire with a damp garment. In the undesirable event of having to cook inside a tent, make sure that the stove is filled and lit outside.

All Shellite stoves require pre-heating or pressurizing, often a frustrating and potentially

achieved by first sealing the tank then carefully pouring additional fuel or smearing inflammable paste over the burner and setting it alight. When the priming fuel has burnt, the burner should be so hot that fuel from the tank only reaches the burner as vapour. Then the stove will start without flaring. (Flaring is caused by liquid fuel reaching the burner.) Inconvenient and dangerous, this process does not always work the first time, tempting one to leave the lid off the fuel bottle. . . . Don't—tents, sleeping bags, and lives have been lost in this manner.

Notable for its pre-heating safety is the Optimus 324, which uses a fuel atomizer to pre-heat the main burner, making fuel spillage impossible. The main burner is operated by a second control once it is hot.

The burners of both the Optimus 324 and the MSR stoves are isolated from the tank, which remains cool to touch and unlikely to ever overheat.

To prevent fuel tanks from overheating, use small pots and avoid improvised windshields.

Optimus stoves have safety valves which 'pop' at six times the normal operating pressure. Each tank is pressure-tested to ten times that pressure. It is worth while keeping the safety valve (situated in the fuel cap) pointed away from sensitive objects such as your face, as a massive flame may be released.

Optimus stoves are robust and reliable but difficult to repair in the field. The lighter MSR

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stoves are less reliable, but come with spare parts designed to be installed in the bush (by the mechanically minded).

Solid fuel (hexamine) stoves are impractical for constant use but are good, foolproof back-up units.

Pot-burners offer little control, and **plate-burners** provide a poor spread. Because they burn unevenly, plate-burners are very noisy. **Ported burners** mix fuel and air thoroughly at all valve settings and offer the best control and spread of heat, making it possible to simmer a stew or porridge or even fry a pancake or bake a pot damper.

The long, soft-ported-and-pot-burner flames spread across the billy surface, reducing the likelihood of burning food, but when exposed to wind they will barely warm a billy. Unprotected stoves were placed in the gentle breeze of a domestic fan on a low-speed setting during the windy bill test.

The Optimus 00 Camper and MSR stoves regulate liquid fuel leaving the tank, rather than vapour entering the burner, giving poor control and a considerable delay between adjustment and flame response.

Vapour-regulation valves incorporate a

cleaning needle. By simply turning the control fully on, any dirt is pushed out (not in, which happens when a cleaning wire is used).

A cleaning needle must not be used to turn off a stove because the jet, contracting as it cools, will clamp the needle, breaking it when the stove is restarted.

Blockages caused by water contamination of the fuel can be alleviated by adding a tiny amount of methylated spirits to your fuel. The water will dissolve in the methylated spirits which in turn will dissolve in the Shellite or kerosene along with your problems.

Windshields can increase the efficiency of a stove by about 15% in still air, reducing fuel consumption. Protective casing is included with the Optimus Trapper and Trangia cooksets.

A small piece of three-ply timber or foam mat will prevent your stove burning a hole in your tent floor or sinking into the snow, taking your meal with it.

Boiling times and fuel consumption figures include assembling and starting each stove. Water was boiled in integral cooksets when provided. Each litre of water was heated from 23°C to 100°C; lids were used.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible and odourless product of the incomplete

combustion of hydrocarbon fuels used by all rucksack stoves. Carbon monoxide has 400 times more affinity for haemoglobin than oxygen. So breathing concentrations of carbon monoxide, which displaces oxygen in the blood, is potentially fatal. Heavier than air, carbon monoxide is a threat when cooking in igloos, snow caves, and tents. Make sure that ventilation is adequate. Because carbon monoxide is heavier than air, cook below the floor-level of sleeping areas where possible. The New South Wales Department of Industrial Relations recommends that exposure to carbon monoxide not exceed about 100 parts per million for four hours or 200 parts per million for two hours. More stringent US standards tolerate only one hour's exposure to 100 parts per million. Carbon monoxide production is dramatically reduced if the billy is raised above the flame. Our test was conducted with a billy of cold water on each stove at maximum output in a double-skin, two-person dome tent with the door flap open 15 centimetres. When the carbon monoxide concentration was greatest, air in the tent was unpleasantly thick and smelt strongly of burnt fuel. Hexamine's unusual combustion products may have exaggerated the solid fuel stove results. ●

Wild Gear Survey Stoves

| | Weight, grams when empty (stove only) | Size packed (l x w x h mm) | Time to boil one litre, minutes | Still air | Wind | Cold air 5°C | Fuel used to boil one litre, grams | Carbon monoxide, parts per million after 2.5/7.5/15 minutes | Burner type | Features | Safety | Stability | Ease of use | RR price |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| Butane (45.1 megajoules per kilogram) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gas Brevet | 285 | 110 x 110 x 190 | 9.00 | No boil | 20.50 | 15 | 105/160/190 | Ported | As above | Good | Satisfactory | Very good | \$25 | |
| Gas Globetrotter | 460 | 115 x 115 x 140 | 9.17 | As above | 15.30 | 15 | 62/83/100 | As above | Pots | As above | As above | As above | \$45 | |
| Gas Instafam | 605 | 120 x 120 x 195 | 13.50 | As above | No boil | 16 | 105/150/180 | As above | As above | As above | As above | As above | \$50 | |
| Pingpong Gas Pack | 640(450) | 170 x 180 x 110 | 13.00 | As above | 19.50 | | | As above | As above | As above | Very good | As above | \$30 | |
| Kerosene (43.1 megajoules per kilogram) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Daerm 105 | 1,540 (1,430) | 140 x 140 x 190 | 5.40 | 5.25 | 7.50 | 21 | 37/75/110 | Ported | Pump | Very good | Good | Good | \$40 | |
| Daerm L747 | 1,600 (1,490) | 170 x 170 x 190 | 5.40 | 5.25 | 7.50 | 21 | 37/75/110 | As above | As above | As above | As above | As above | \$45 | |
| Optimus 00 Camper | 700 | 140 x 140 x 85 100 x 100 x 60 | 10.50 | 19.00 | 11.25 | 14 | 45/100/110 | Plate | As above | As above | As above | Satisfactory | \$75 | |
| Methylated Spirits (25.9 megajoules per kilogram) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Optimus 81 Trapper | 970 | 206 x 206 x 110 | 11.00 | 13.00 | 12.30 | 27 | 102/250/400+ | Pot | Pump, windshield | Very good | Very good | Very good | \$50 | |
| Trangia 27-1 | 850 | 190 x 190 x 100 | 10.58 | 12.00 | 16.58 | 26 | 40/250/320 | As above | As above | As above | As above | As above | \$45 | |
| Trangia 25-1 | 1,150 | 220 x 220 x 120 | 11.08 | 12.17 | 17.00 | 24 | 40/200/285 | As above | As above | As above | As above | As above | \$55 | |
| Multi-fuel | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSR XSG Shellite | 575 (450) | 270 x 135 x 105 | 4.00 | 4.25 | 4.10 | 12 | 35/50/75 | Plate | Cup, pump, windshield | Very good | Good | Satisfactory | \$190 | |
| kerosene | | | 5.30 | | | 20 | | | | As above | | | | |
| Optimus 199 Ranger | 900 | 100 x 125 x 125 | 9.00 | 10.50 | 12.20 | 22 | 30/44/100 | Ported | Cup, pump | Satisfactory | As above | As above | \$105 | |
| Shellite | | | 6.50 | | | 14 | | | | Very good | | | | |
| kerosene | | | 6.20 | | | 40 | | | | As above | | | | |
| meth spirits | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shellite (45.3 megajoules per kilogram) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSR Whisperlite | 513 (392) | 120 x 100 x 100 | 4.83 | 5.60 | 7.60 | 15 | 65/105/125 | Ported | Pump, windshield | Very good | Very good | Good | \$85 | |
| Optimus 123 Siva/Climber | 550 | 95 x 95 x 128 | 7.50 | 7.83 | 9.17 | 16 | 100/150/210 | Plate | Cup (pump) | Good | Satisfactory | As above | \$45 | |
| Optimus 324 Rider | 735 | 120 x 120 x 110 | 4.75 | 6.60 | 6.75 | 23 | 320/400+/400+ | Ported | Pump | Very good | Good | Very good | \$75 | |
| Optimus 8R Hunter | 600 | 130 x 130 x 80 | 6.50 | 8.08 | 14.30 | 18 | 80/160/230 | Plate | (Pump) | Satisfactory | Very good | Good | \$75 | |
| Solid fuel (Approx 20 megajoules per kilogram) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Esbit Pocket Cooker | 180 (100) | 100 x 75 x 20 | 7.50 | No boil | 15.50 | 44 | 400+/400+/400+ | | | Very good | Satisfactory | Good | \$6 | |
| Firelite | 530 (130) | 115 x 97 x 30 | 6.75 | No boil | 14.17 | 50 | 400+/400+/400+ | | | As above | As above | As above | \$8 | |

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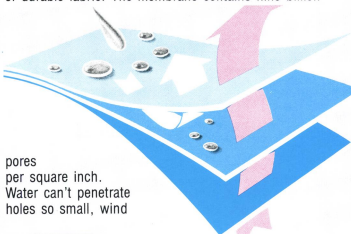
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Greg Mortimer wearing a Gore-Tex® down suit on the summit of Mt Everest. Photo Tim Macartney-Snape

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Top to Bottom

The Northern Territory and Tasmania in pictures

Reviews

The Top End of Down Under by Peter Jarver (Thunderhead Photographics, 1986, RRP \$29.95).

With the debate on the future of Kakadu National Park hitting the headlines, the release of this book by photographer Peter Jarver is timely. Although covering the very 'top end' of Australia, a good third of the photographs present the rugged but serene beauty of Kakadu. The remaining two sections of this 120-page full-colour volume touch upon the rest of the Northern Territory, including Darwin, Casuarina Beach, and Tabletop Range Park, and conclude with spectacular photographs of cloud formations and lightning displays peculiar to the coastal region.

An insightful commentary, written by the author and Kerry Davies, accompanies the photographs. It provides a sufficient historical, economic and social perspective for the area, and the result is a serious and balanced introduction to the 'top end' of Australia, as well as a collection of superb photos. The work of Peter Jarver contributes not only to conservation efforts but also to the direction of Australian photography. His photographs of Darwin, in particular, reflect an understanding of form and colour that sees photography as beyond representational.

These precisely exposed and impeccably printed photographs are unfortunately surrounded by thick, wobbly grey keylines with blobby corners, detracting from the overall impact of the images. The work of Peter Jarver deserves a more sympathetic graphic treatment. Nevertheless the volume remains an appreciable serious work.

David Wong

Myles Dunphy: Selected Writings compiled and annotated by Patrick Thompson (Ballagrin, 1986, RRP \$29.95).

Myles Dunphy (1891-1985) was a legend in his lifetime in New South Wales, and probably beyond, among bushwalkers and the conservation movement. He was co-founder of the Mountain Trails Club, in 1914, one of the very early bushwalking clubs in Australia, and was the pioneer in this country of the idea of wilderness and its expression in National Parks.

His extraordinarily comprehensive proposals, prepared mainly during the 1930s and 1940s, for a Blue Mountains National Park and a Snowy-Indi National Park, and several other parks and reserves in New South Wales, have all become realities, if much later and smaller than he had hoped.

Myles's ideas evolved from his explorations on foot and by canoe when the bush was really wild and remote. Lacking the topographical maps we now take for granted, he compiled his own, using his skill as an architectural draftsman. They are unique works of art which convey the shape of the land with great fidelity, and which contain abundant information, invaluable to walkers. An assiduous recorder, Myles kept diaries of his travels and a collection of his voluminous published writing.

Patrick Thompson, himself a bushwalker and conservationist, won Myles's trust in the later

years of his long life and has produced from the journals an extremely handsome tribute in this book (launched by former NSW Premier, Neville Wran, last November). Of particular interest to walkers are the chapters on his expeditions and the production of his maps; together with the chapters on War, Religion, Politics, Family and Work, National Parks, and Wilderness, they

alternatives: is mankind to have access to the seventh continent to provide for his needs as resources become exhausted elsewhere, or is all exploitation of the continent to be prohibited and the continent preserved as a wilderness area?

Geoff Mosley puts the ACF view which, naturally, argues for the second alternative. He



Early-morning storm over Casuarina Beach, Northern Territory. Photo by Peter Jarver, reproduced from *The Top End of Down Under*.

yield a rounded picture of a remarkable man. His eloquently expressed ideas about recreational walking, the value of wild places, the purposes and management of National Parks, and many other matters, are well worth pondering in these days of activities dubbed exploration and adventure and of dubious 'uses' of National Parks.

The book contains excellent sepia photographs from Myles's collection and those of some of his colleagues, depicting people and places he knew; they are wonderfully clear, some having been taken more than 70 years ago. There are also reproductions of his maps, some of which are still in print.

The history of the Australian conservation movement and of bushwalking are almost unknown facets of Australia's social history. Patrick Thompson has done a fine job in bringing them to the fore, where they belong.

Proceeds from the sale of this beautiful book will go to the Colong Committee to ensure that Myles's work can be continued.

Sandra Bardwell

Antarctica-Our Last Great Wilderness by Geoff Mosley (Australian Conservation Foundation, 1986, RRP \$12.95).

Argument about the future of Antarctica revolves fundamentally around the following

says 'The most obvious way of implementing a "complete protection" option is through the strategy of a world park'.

Although he writes 'the (Antarctic) Treaty system does offer the best prospect for the protection of the Antarctic wilderness', he criticizes steps being taken in Antarctic Treaty consultations to develop a 'minerals regime' that would control possible future exploitation of the continent. He considers that this pre-empted consideration of the full protection option.

However at present there is no control mechanism which could prevent commercial exploitation in Antarctica should some large company decide to embark upon such an enterprise. The development of a 'minerals regime' is therefore, in my opinion, an urgent necessity.

The author mistakenly assumes (pages 21 and 24) that, because 12 nations originally signed the Antarctic Treaty, there were 12 active during the International Geophysical Year. In fact, there were only 11.

Whatever your philosophy, you will find this book interesting, informative and attractive. The photographs are splendid and the conservation arguments, despite several unsubstantiated statements, are logically and succinctly presented. Pages 46-50, in particular, stimulate serious thinking. This is a short but useful reference book on Antarctic conservation.

Phillip Law

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Walking the Otways (Geelong Bushwalking Club, 1986, RRP \$6.00).

The forested ranges, valleys, waterfalls, and unspoiled coast of the Otways make one of the best walking areas in Victoria. The enterprising Geelong Bushwalking Club has done a splendid service for walkers by compiling a comprehensive guide to the area, much of it within Otway National Park.

Over 50 walks are grouped according to the six localities on which they are based; in addition, two 'grand tour' walks (of nine and ten days) are outlined. The walks are graded between easy and difficult.

Short introductory sections give basic advice and tell how to use the track notes. Each group of notes is prefaced by a locality map, brief description of the features, and access and special points to remember. The track notes are on the left-hand page and the planimetric map (various scales) opposite. This format, combined with the wide spiral binding, should make the book easy to use.

A summary of the route, maps required, general information, track notes, author, and date of survey are given for each walk. Readers are encouraged to use the tear-out page at the end to notify the club of any inaccurate information and suggested improvements. The cover is in colour; fair to good black-and-white photographs illustrate the text.

When the book is reprinted, the editors could well consider improving the accuracy and readability of several maps. All places mentioned in the notes should appear on the accompanying map. On the whole, the track notes seem to be adequate, although they are unadorned by any background information—a necessary sacrifice to maintain the practical format.

How has the club managed to set such a low price? Through advertisements, financial help from the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs and the Department of Sport and Recreation, and a non-profit policy. Other clubs could well follow this example—an ordinary commercial publication would probably sell at twice the price. Send your cheque (postage is extra) to *Walking the Otways*, c/o Geelong Bushwalking Club Inc, PO Box 675, Geelong, Vic 3220. Highly recommended.

SB

Canoeing the Rivers and Lakes of New South Wales by Chris & Yvonne McLaughlin (Macstey, 1986, RRP \$12.50, including post, to PO Box 78, Hampton, Vic 3188).

For a worn-out marathon paddler like me who has turned to canoe touring in his 'retirement', this book is most welcome and long overdue.

Canoeing Guide to Victoria was first published in 1971 and is now in its fifth edition. Anyone who has done much canoe touring, particularly on white water, knows that this publication is invaluable when heading off for trips on rivers not previously paddled. Chris and Yvonne McLaughlin, the authors of *Canoeing the Rivers and Lakes of New South Wales*, contributed a great deal to the Victorian book and this experience has been put to great use in producing the NSW book. Why it has taken so long for someone to publish a book such as this for touring paddlers in NSW, and why it was finally published by Victorians, I do not know. This question is particularly pertinent given the many excellent and diverse waterways in NSW.

Reviews

The book gives basic introductory advice on safety and equipment, although this is obviously not designed to be comprehensive. The book's value is its descriptions of rivers and lakes from a canoeist's point of view.

Canoeing the Rivers and Lakes of New South Wales is divided into 11 sections with descriptions of the rivers in each relevant geographical area: Richmond River Valley, Clarence River Section, North Coast, Hawkesbury River System, South Coast, Snowy River Valley (including the Victorian section of the Snowy), Barwon/Darling River System, Macquarie River Valley, Lachlan River Valley, Murrumbidgee River Valley, and the Murray River Valley.

Each river and lake is given a brief description, with attention given to the major rapids and hazards. Obviously a book such as this can only be a guide, as there is no substitute for paddling the river. But the guide is useful to help paddlers decide whether a river they have not paddled before is either within their capabilities or, alternatively, exciting enough. The guide, of course, includes lakes as well.

Although I have paddled only a few of the rivers and lakes described, the descriptions would be helpful to anyone heading off on a trip to one of them. No doubt there are some omissions (such as the best section of the Goobarragandra River) but the book is a step in the right direction and obviously the result of many years' compilation.

The division of waterways into areas rather than simply alphabetical order is good (an index is given at the back), but the book would be improved by more ordered layout and information. It is often difficult to work out the best levels at which to paddle a river, and the distances involved. The book needs a 'river level summary', which lists the minimum, best and maximum levels for paddling rivers, and the location of the relevant gauge. It would be useful to have regional maps at the beginning of each section, and a summary of river particulars and other information (such as suitable river heights, maximum grade, distance, paddling time, relevant map and so on) as in *Paddle About Tasmania*.

This book is a 'must' for anyone intending to do much touring paddling in NSW, and the authors are to be congratulated.

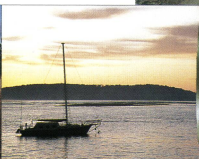
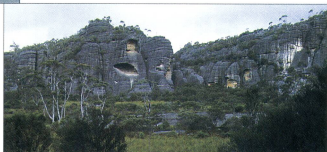
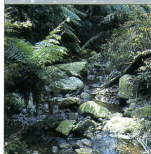
James Sloan

The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds by Peter, Pat & Raoul Slater (Lansdowne-Rigby, 1986, RRP \$29.95).

Peter Slater's was the first of the comprehensive field guides to Australian birds. In two volumes, it was cumbersome; one always seemed to be carrying the wrong volume when a difficult bird was seen, and many of the paintings were crude and wooden. Not so its successor. The Slater family has produced an entirely new book. Every plate has been redone and, with so much practice, the standard of Peter's painting has improved enormously. Pat's text is more detailed than in the paired volumes, although the distribution described in words sometimes differs from that shown on Raoul's maps.

Long and thin, the book is designed to fit into a genuine pocket, while tough binding prevents the birds escaping on a windy day. The size of the book, quality of the paintings, and tight

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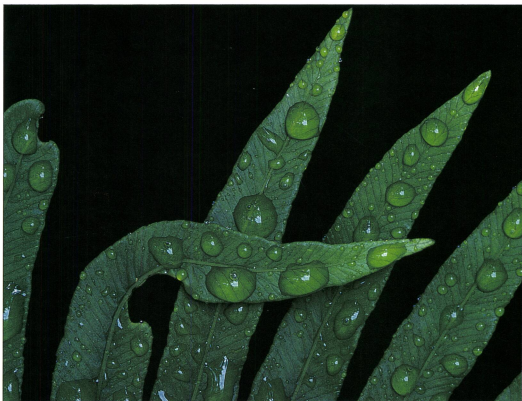
Stephen Garnett

Tasmania's Rainforests (The Wilderness Society, 1986, RRP \$11.95).

Tasmania's magnificent, primeval forests are facing dire threats to their very existence. A strong and constant voice for their preservation

stunning. Sadly Morcombe did not again make photography the theme of this book, as he has of his many others. His artistry has been devalued by his ambition to produce something more substantial.

While searching for subjects, the author learnt where to find Australian birds. The idea of putting that information in a book was a good one, and the part of the book where he



Fishbone water fern. Photo by Dennis Harding, reproduced from Tasmania's Rainforests.

against rampant commercial exploitation, the Wilderness Society has published this beautiful reminder of what is at stake. *Tasmania's Rainforests* should appeal to the heart and conscience of every Australian bushwalker.

A slim (60-page) soft-bound publication, *Tasmania's Rainforests* is a high-quality, A4-size book largely comprising superb colour photos of Tasmanian forest scenes. The brief text describes the different rainforest regions of Tasmania, and strongly identifies the alarmingly varied plethora of threats to their natural beauty.

For its price, *Tasmania's Rainforests* is an excellent buy and, as proceeds from its sales go to the campaign to save Tasmania's forests, by buying this book you will also be buying something priceless.

Chris Baxter

The Great Australian Birdfinder by Michael Morcombe (Landsdowne-Rigby, 1986, RRP \$59.95).

Michael Morcombe is a superb photographer of wildlife. His extraordinary pictures of a rufous scrub-bird in full song, reproduced twice in this book, remain classics many years after they were taken, and included here are many other full-page portraits of birds which are equally

describes ornithological foci is indeed useful. The remaining 80% adds nothing but price. The second half of the book, describing every species, is particularly superfluous, being covered so much more comprehensively by the many other bird guides on the market. And he should never have attempted to illustrate every species. To do this he has used many photographic failures and a set of very unhappy paintings. The amount of work in the book is prodigious, but a shorter version including only the portraits and the places to watch birds would have been so much more useful.

SG

Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia by Betty Duncan & Golda Isaac (Melbourne University Press, 1986, RRP \$25).

Do you remember where the elves used to live, the cleft of sheltered greenery on the dry hillside, or the corner of the old quarry where you once rode your bicycle? They were places dappled in mystery and fairy-tales, enchanted by the spells of seeping water and soft fern fronds.

Whether you have such memories or not, ferns have pleasant associations for most people in this dry country. Certainly they are in fashion, and this comprehensive guide to the ferns of south-eastern Australia meets a long-felt need. It is a technical book, severely factual,



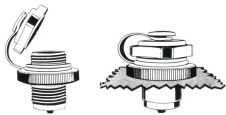
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cargo pockets; full
storm-cape;
3-piece hood with
visor; hood and
waist draw-cord;
two-way YKK
zipper; 3 colours;
5 sizes; Fastex
press studs; storm
cuffs; and is made
in Australia?

ANSWER:

MONT MONT

Reviews

but will undoubtedly increase understanding of the 120 or so species of ferns and their allies found in the area. You will now be able to tell whether your childhood grotto was occupied by filmy maidenhairs or prickly rasp-ferns.

Sadly not all species are accompanied by maps, for fear that rarer species could be exterminated from the wild by over-collecting if their location was given too precisely.

SG

Native Plants of the Sydney Region by Margaret Baker, Robin Corringham & Jill Dark (Three Sisters, 1986, RRP \$8.50).

Pressed by destinations, hungering for horizons, many bushwalkers notice plants only when arrested by the spectacular. The Sydney region is blessed by many such plants. Stunning though the views may be, it is hard to raise more than an amble through the springtime heath as one plant after another halts your progress.

Most of them are illustrated and entertainingly described in this guide, which comes from the same stable as the guides to plants of the upper and lower Blue Mountains. The book is not comprehensive, but definitive identification is beyond its scope. Few bushwalkers wish to wrestle with dichotomous keys or huddle in the herbarium; all they want is a name. To name a plant, even if incorrectly, is to appreciate its difference from its fellows—part of a wider understanding of the diversity of the life we are privileged to experience. This guide, like its predecessors, fosters that understanding.

SG

50 Walks in the Grampians by Tyrone Thomas (Hill of Content, third edition 1986, RRP \$8.95).

Apart from the cover, the main change in this latest edition of Thomas's classic guide to walking in Victoria's Grampians is that all the maps are new—an effective and sorely-needed change.

Whilst Thomas or his book designers are never likely to take literary or graphic design circles by storm, he clearly knows the Grampians inside-out and has produced the most useful book of its kind.

CB

Classic Rock Climbs in Great Britain by Bill Birkett (Oxford Illustrated Press, 1986).

The idea of a glossy 'selected climbs' book to the UK has been done before and done much better. Described on the cover as 'no 1' in a 'classic walks series', *Classic Rock Climbs in Great Britain* does British rockclimbing, the pleasures of which are esoteric enough at the best of times, a disservice. There is not a single good photograph, both the text and book design are dull, and the choice of climbs is downright quirky. In the interests of conservation of trees, let us hope this book is both the first and last of the proposed 'classic walks series'.

CB

Other Titles Received

Murder at the 14th Control by Wilf Holloway (Orienteering Service of Australia, 1986, \$9.95).

Starfish Wars by Robert Raymond (Macmillan, 1986, RRP \$24.95).

Publications for possible review are welcome. Send them to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

As more and more women become actively engaged in the outdoor field, specialist activities such as walking, climbing and mountaineering are no longer predominantly male pursuits.

Because gear has always been designed for men, women have become accustomed to using the smaller sizes available, accepting the inevitable, and occasional, discomfort. Until now.

Acknowledging this unsatisfactory situation, the Berghaus design team has developed a unique range of technically outstanding equipment specifically for women – the Lady Pulsar rucksack and Trionic Lady footwear – supplementing the universal popularity of Polarplus clothing.

Lady Pulsar

The Lady Pulsar range of medium sized rucksacs, with capacities of 40 to 55 litres, differs from conventional models in the use of tailored shoulder straps and a scalloped hip belt, both of which are specially designed for the female form.

Manufactured in tough Ardura 1000, the Lady Pulsars incorporate a high grade aluminium frame.

Encased in webbing for added strength, and covered in ADVENT a remarkable new body contact material, it has the effect of transferring the weight through the rucksack from the shoulders to the hips while maintaining the rucksacs anatomical shape.

Designed with a slight flare at the base to lift the bulk of the sac away from the buttock area, the anatomic



EQUALITY EQUIPMENT

frame allows greater freedom of movement without loss of stability.

With varying specification,

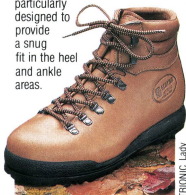
and a choice of capacities and colours there is a Lady Pulsar to suit every outdoor requirement.

TRIONIC Lady

The spectacularly successful SCARPA range of TRIONIC footwear includes a special model designed specifically to meet the needs of the lady walker. Probably the most technically advanced range of walking boots in the world, TRIONIC incorporates many unique features, and has constantly led the way with the introduction of innovative materials and constructional techniques.

The "Lady" shares all the same basic characteristics as the rest of the COMFORT FLEX TRIONIC Range – Blake sewn moulded nylon midsole; Skywalk® Trionic Sole with Yeti gaiter fitting facility and Safety Grip Heel®; HS12 Calf leather upper; Cambrelle® lining;

removable footbed. However, it is made on a special narrow last particularly designed to provide a snug fit in the heel and ankle areas.



Polarplus™

Berghaus Polarplus™ clothing – active leisure wear that looks good, feels good and performs. A range of four garments in a choice of seven colours manufactured from the very latest in fabric development from Malden. It is a luxuriously soft, double-faced velour pile that contains nearly all the advantages of other pile fabrics, but with few of their faults. When a fabric with such outstanding performance characteristics is combined with Berghaus manufacturing quality and design expertise, a stunning range of clothing is assured.



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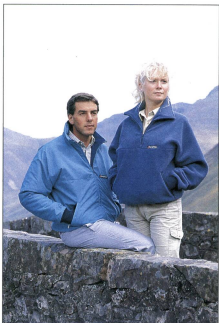
Haute Couture

Fashion in high places

● **Berghaus Boutique.** Women designers at Berghaus are making their presence felt. The new *Berghaus Pulsar* range of medium-size packs includes three Lady Pulsar models.

Lady Pulsar shoulder-straps, hip-belts, and flared frame staves are tailored to suit women. Lady Pulsar packs have fixed back lengths and 40, 45 and 55 litre sizes. The Lady Pulsar 55BC has two main compartments with a curved zip access to the bottom compartment. RRP between \$97.50 and \$129.80 at Paddy Pallin shops.

● **Two-faced.** Polarplus is a fine-denier double-faced polyester-velour pile. Polarplus is soft, pill-resistant, stretchable, and it absorbs little water and dries quickly.



Berghaus Polarplus reversible jacket, left, and Polarplus smock.

The *Berghaus Polarplus* jacket has a zip front closure and pockets, and comes in a choice of seven colours and five sizes. RRP \$198 at Paddy Pallin shops.

The *Berghaus Polarplus reversible jacket* has a porous polyester-cotton shell which can be worn inside or out. There are four colour combinations and five sizes. RRP \$299 at Paddy Pallin shops.

● **Lady Daintree.** The *Paddy Pallin Daintree* jacket is made from proofed polyester-cotton and has been tailored to fit the female form! The Daintree has a shorter body and sleeves,

shaped and pleated waist with draw-cord, Velcro wrist closure, and front zip closure with studded flap. The removable peaked cape-hood covers the shoulders and can be stowed in any of the three pockets. The Daintree is available in three sizes and two colours; red and a pleasing teal green (turquoise). The medium size jacket weighs 625 grams. RRP \$119 at Paddy Pallin shops.

● **In Stride.** The new *Paddy Pallin Gore-Tex* overpants have an elasticized waist with an adjustable draw-cord back-band. Ankle-to-knee zips enable the overpants to be pulled on over boots, and seal with a stud and Velcro flap. RRP \$139 at Paddy Pallin shops.

● **Darting into the Fray.** *Berghaus Dart* day packs have double-sewn and bound seams, contoured shoulder straps, a variety of pocket configurations, trendy colour schemes, and very snug-fitting lids. Eighteen, 20 and 30 litre Dart day packs cost between RRP \$39.95 and \$59.80 at Paddy Pallin shops.

● **Stage Two.** The new *Outgear Kakadu* rucksack adjustable harness is currently the subject of a registered design application. The Kakadu shoulder straps individually buckle to a web ladder.

The 12-ounce proofed-canvas body has an abrasion-resistant double-nylon base, full-length canvas throat with draw-cord, extendable lid with weatherproof pocket, side compression straps, D-ring accessory attachment points (side pockets are optional), and a large front pocket. Seams are bound twice and double-sewn.

The 50 litre Kakadu is available in short and medium back lengths, and the 70 litre size in medium and long back lengths. RRP \$210.

● **Eureka! Stockade.** Budget *Stockade* tents from *Eureka!* are for walkers with more dash than cash. The *Alder Brook* (twin crossed-hoop wedge, RRP \$189), popular *Caddis* (three-hoop tunnel, RRP \$255), and *Wind River* (four-hoop geodesic dome, RRP \$275) are now only available as Stockade economy models.

They have shock-corded hollow fibreglass hoops, and polyurethane-coated nylon taffeta floors and flys. The *Alder Brook* and *Caddis* both have two doors. Stockade tents do not have tape-sealed seams, or ultra-violet-resistant, colour-fast and two-metre water-column tested proofed nylon fabrics common to the standard *Eureka!* tents.

● **Pointers.** New *Suunto* compasses available in Australia include the *TK-1*, a rubber-bodied capsule on a lanyard. RRP \$17. The *TK-3* has a magnifying lens moulded into the clear plastic

compass base-plate, which slips into a protective leather cover. RRP \$19.50. The mirror inside the *MC-1* model's hinged protective lid is used for making accurate bearings. The *MC-1* also has magnetic declination adjustment (to



Berghaus Lady Pulsar 55BC.

compensate for variations in the earth's magnetic field), an inclinometer for estimating gradients and relative elevation, and a lanyard. RRP \$50.

● **Stoke Love.** The *Optimus 85 Lake* combines a large capacity kerosene stove with a light comprehensive cookset. Kerosene is a cheap, efficient and controllable fuel which is easily obtained in developing countries. The integrated tank and burner can boil a litre of water in four and a half minutes, and burns for over 70 minutes before requiring refuelling. An insulated

'Quest' for the best



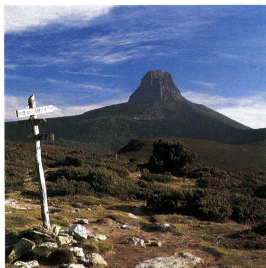
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Kimberley

Leather-lined, full-grain leather upper and insole, stitch-down construction, eye and hook lacing. Pair size 42: 1,200 grams

Flinders

Leather-lined, single-piece full-grain leather upper and insole, wire fairstitch construction, Greenland traditional lug sole, D-ring lacing. Pair size 42: 1,620 grams

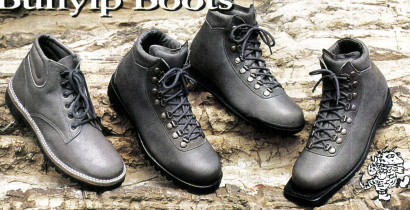
Bogong

Leather-lined, single-piece full-grain leather upper and insole, cement-bonded Vibram Skywalk sole (compatible with Trionic-style gaiters), D-ring lacing. Pair size 42: 1,280 grams

Grey Mare

Leather-lined, single-piece full-grain leather upper and insole, wire fairstitch construction, Vibram Nordic Norm sole, D-ring lacing. Pair size 42: 1,500 grams

Bunyip Boots



knob on the end of a shaft adjusts the heat output and operates the self-cleaning jet.

The cookset is composed of two pots, a pan/lid, grip, packing strap, and windshields. The Loke weighs 1.4 kilograms and measures 22 centimetres across and 10 centimetres deep when packed. RRP \$200.

● **Dreaming I Suppose...** Because of its modest size, the Australian walking community has failed to stimulate a progressive local specialist footwear industry. The spiralling cost of European walking boots however is breathing life into the Australian industry. A third-generation Australian leather merchant has turned its attention to bushwalkers' needs with impressive results.

Bunyip boots are leather-lined and feature sturdy full-grain leather uppers and insoles. The insole is the heart of a boot, to which the upper and sole are attached. A leather insole is more malleable than the more common plastic insoles, and conforms to the shape of your feet.

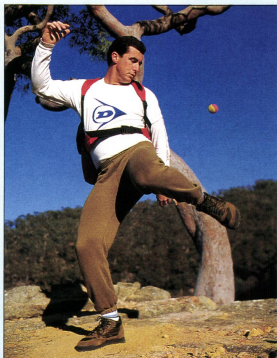
The stitch-down style *Bunyip Kimberley* has eye- and hook-lacing; a size 42 pair weighs 1.2 kilograms and costs about \$120.

The fair-stitch style *Bunyip Flinders* has a handsome single-piece upper, traditional lug sole, and D-ring lacing. A pair weighs 1.62 kilograms and costs about \$180. Sharing the same single-piece upper, the *Bunyip Bogong* has a Vibram Skywalk sole which accepts

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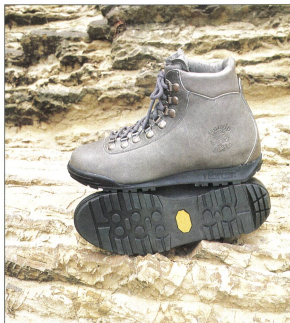
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Bunyip Bogong boots.

Trionic gaiters. A pair weighs 1.28 kilograms and also costs about \$180. The Bogong is the first locally made Scarpa-style cement-bonded boot for serious walking.

The fair-stitch style *Bunyip Grey Mare* is the first Australian ski touring boot and will be available this winter. The Grey Mare has a single-piece upper, and D-ring lacing. A pair weighs 1.5 kilograms and costs about \$200.

● **Run and Hide.** Dehydrated meals are making a comeback! *Giant Trees Foods* in Murrumbidgee, Melbourne, offers seven meal

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Equipment

varieties, including three vegetarian, in single-serve packets: chilli, curried and Hawaiian beef, Aussie stew, and, curried, oriental, and traditional vegetarian dishes. The recipes are relatively imaginative and seasoning generous.

The plastic pouches seem adequate, though a little frail.

Soaking an evening meal all day while you walk will enhance reconstitution. Why not start soaking the previous evening?

Each sachet weighs 125 grams and costs between RRP \$3.90 and \$4.70.

• **Strain.** Often mountain steams are not as pristine as they appear. Australians are lucky; we are not used to approaching remote watercourses with the caution warranted overseas. An alternative to carrying safe water with you is treating the water you find. Adding chlorine or iodine will kill most micro-organisms but is distasteful, and the effectiveness subject to many variables. Rather than adding anything to the water, removing contamination by filtration is appealing.

Once only possible in the laboratory, convenient micro-filtration in the field is now a reality. The Swiss Katadyn pocket filter pumps a litre of water through 0.2 micron pores in 90 seconds. (A micron is one thousandth of a millimetre.) The ceramic filter is impregnated with silver to prevent the growth of bacteria. Micro-organisms larger than 0.2 micron are removed, safeguarding against amoebic and shigella dysenteries, bacterial diarrhoea, bilharzia, cholera, giardia, liver fluke, parasites and typhoid. Even very murky water can be transformed.

The Katadyn pocket filter pump weighs only 650 grams and comes with a storage pouch, cleaning brush, and a hose with intake strainer. RRP \$328.

Katadyn filters (portable and domestic) are supplied to UNICEF agencies, armies, adventure travel organizations, and expeditions around the world, and are available in Australia from Katadyn Products, 29 Stewart Street, Wollongong, NSW 2500. (042) 27 2473.

• **Strapless.** Cassin 200C Step-in 12-point crampons are made from tempered nickel-chrome-molybdenum, and like other strapless



Cassin 200C step-in crampons.

crampons are designed for use with rigid-soled boots with generous welts. A pair weighs only 880 grams and costs \$135.

• **Up Tight!** From Spelean, comes the latest in uninhibiting leg wear for rock athletes; made for climbers by cavers (sounds like a goblin conspiracy). Spelean *Uptights* feature fluorescent two-way stretch Lycra, stretch-stitched and overlapped seams (reinforced at the crutch), flat non-rolling elastic waist, and dynamic and bizarre designs. Never let it be said that rockclimbers are self-conscious. RRP \$44.95.

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loves the rain



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The secret is Aztec, a specialised pack fabric designed to satisfy MACPAC'S unique demands for weather proofness and durability.

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Australian Rock 1987

The 1987 edition of Australia's climbing magazine (including a guidebook to Sydney and its infamous sea cliffs, and descriptions of almost 200 new routes at Mt Arapiles) is now available, for **\$4.95**, at specialist outdoor shops, or direct from the publisher.

Rock 1985 and **1986** are also available for \$4.95 each. Use the order form in this issue to tell us what you want!

Ascenders

A Wild mini-survey to get you aloft

● **Tools For the Ascent of Man.** Ascending a rope with climbing devices that grip the rope is common practice in caves and on cliffs. But how safe are ascenders?

Recent tests performed at a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) registered facility in Sydney indicate that the strength of ascenders on the Australian market varies significantly. Jumar, Kong, Petzl, and long-bodied CMI and SRT ascenders were tested.

For speleologists, ascenders make long vertical ascents immeasurably easier than the now old-fashioned method of climbing a steel wire ladder. Rockclimbers use ascenders when following a leader on artificial climbs, and while back-roping—that is, using an ascender as a sliding belay to protect them when climbing alone.

While an ascender may only ever have to take the static weight of one person, unforeseen circumstances could mean that the ascender has to take a lot more strain. This is especially the case if a back-roping climber falls any distance, or if the ascender is to be used in a rescue operation.

Testing (with 11 millimetre Ederlid static rope) was carried out at A Noble & Son Ltd's NATA-registered test facility at Silverwater in Sydney. Figures given show the force under which the ascender failed to hold the rope. The New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry requires equipment for carrying people on lifts and aerial ropeways to bear a load at least ten times greater than the safe working load. If

had slipped to the other side of the cam it would also have been released.

The Swiss Jumar and the Australian-made Single Rope Technique (SRT) ascenders performed similarly. Both cut the rope sheath; the Jumar at 7.7 kilonewtons, and the SRT at 7.8 kilonewtons. Neither displayed visible distortion of the cam enclosure, and neither allowed the rope to slip. Re-designing the trailing edge of the cams might allow further tests to better indicate the real strength of these two ascenders, because neither had reached the point of mechanical failure. It appeared to be the sharp angle of the cam's trailing edge which caused the sheath to be cut.

Tests were also performed on the body strength of the three strongest ascenders, involving attachment at the top and bottom eye-holes provided. All failed at the top eye-holes. The Jumar probably failed earlier because it is cast rather than extruded and milled like the SRT and CMI products. Extruded aluminium tends to stretch before breaking. The ascending test showed that body strength is not a factor affecting the Jumar's strength in normal use, but they should probably be discarded or treated with caution if they are dropped any distance.

Under normal conditions, an ascender used to climb a rope only has to support about 75 kilograms, the weight of an average male. The

tests were halted at 100 kilograms so that the ascenders could be examined to ensure that no problems are likely to occur under normal operating conditions. All passed this examination, so do not panic if you already have a model that has been less successful in these tests. It probably will not let you down, but do not overload it. If you are back-roping belaying only use the best, or use a friction device specifically designed for back-roping.

Ropes should be hung from multiple-point anchors and protected from possible abrasion before being ascended. Always tie the rope being climbed to your harness (or even have someone belay you with an additional rope), making sure that the ascenders are never your only grip on 'the thread of life'. Periodically re-attach yourself to the rope to reduce the distance you would fall in the event of an accident. Ascender accidents usually occur while the ascenders are being engaged or disengaged from the rope. Be particularly cautious when ascending diagonally or negotiating a horizontally rigged rope.

Lyle Cross

New products (on loan to Wild), and/or information about them, including colour slides, are welcomed for possible review in this department. Written items should be typed, include recommended retail prices, and preferably not exceed 200 words. Send items to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

Ascenders

| | Load at which hold on 11 mm static rope failed, kilograms | Comments | NSW DLI safe working load*, kilograms |
|--------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Kong | 440 kg | Cam enclosure distorted, rope jammed | 44 kg |
| Petzl | 500 | Cam enclosure distorted, rope allowed to slip | 50 |
| CMI | 580 | Cam enclosure distorted, rope released | 1,560 kg 58 |
| Jumar | 770 | Rope sheath cut through, rope held | 1,080 77 |
| SRT | 780 | Rope sheath cut through, rope held | 2,040 78 |

*Using NSW DLI ratio for equipment-carrying humans: one-tenth of maximum load. Ascenders can be loaded beyond this point without problems.

similar standards were applied to ascenders, only a few of the available models would be left on the shelf.

Distortion of the section of the body enclosing the cam and the rope was the main problem with the three ascenders that failed to maintain a grip on the rope. Under stress this section bent outwards, enabling the rope to slip and, in the case of the CMI ascender, to slip out of the ascender altogether.

The Kong ascender had let the rope slip from the face of the cam to between the side of the cam and the body of the ascender. If the rope

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SRT single- (400 gm) and double-rope (480 gm) Descenders self-arrest under body-weight yet give precise, finger-tip control of rate of descent and don't twist ropes. Crafted from stainless steel and hardened aluminium, they are designed for 6 to 13 mm ropes and are ideal for vertical caving and abseiling.

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Wildfire

Congratulations to Graeme Hill and Jon and Brigitte Muir for their successful ascent of Shivering (*Wild* no 22). We appreciate the difficulties of the expedition, being 'the trekkers' who visited their Advance Base Camp at Tappovand.

However, it is disappointing to see *Wild* publish an article which is apparently at odds with its supposed ideals: 'the often intensely personal, almost spiritual nature of involvement with (wilderness)'.

The Ganges River, the Gangotri region and Shivering in particular are of enormous significance, spiritually, to millions of Hindus. Every summer pilgrims journey thousands of kilometres to purify themselves in the icy waters of the Ganges, and to receive blessings from religious teachers in the area. One such teacher lived on the desolate meadow at Tappovand; less than 100 metres away was the Australian Base Camp.

In 'Shivering Sojourn' we were saddened by the absence of any comment relating to this aspect of the area. We are concerned that *Wild*, through publishing the article, is promoting expeditions which have no empathy for the local people and their traditions. This disregard was also conveyed by the mountaineers in their attitude to their cook and the death of their liaison officer, both of whom were working under trying conditions.

Surely *Wild* should be encouraging Australians, young and old, to interact positively with people at all levels of an expedition. In future we hope *Wild* will publish articles which describe more than purely technical conquests by Australians overseas.

Fiona Walsh & Carolyn Goba
Perth, WA

Gear Freaks of the World Unite!

As an avid fan of *Wild* since its inception, I feel somewhat disillusioned after your editorial in *Wild* 22. In that editorial you imply that becoming techno-materialistic is undesirable, yet in that same edition there are at least 37 advertisements extolling the virtues of the latest technology in outdoor equipment. The revenue received from the companies who place these advertisements is the lifeblood of your magazine; your hypocrisy amazes me...

If people feel that by purchasing state-of-the-art equipment their adventures become more enjoyable and/or safer, then surely you are not in a position to criticize.

It is irrelevant what gear is taken into the bush, as long as people do not damage the environment, nor affect other people who are there to enjoy it also. Increasingly, the old adage

of 'take only photographs, leave only footprints' needs to be adhered to, regardless of the equipment used.

C Davie
Hawthorn, Vic

PS Should your new-found principles prevent you from testing any techno-materialistic equipment that your advertisers send you, my friends and I will be only too happy to oblige.

Yes, Minister

In your Editorial (*Wild* no 23) you sounded a timely warning about creeping developments in national and other parks.

I could take issue about your extravagant references to power-hungry government agencies, opulent budgets and huge staffs, but there are three more important issues deserving of comment.

National Parks are set aside for the preservation of the flora and fauna that have always been there and which need protection from human visitors, including those who 'tread softly'. For example, restriction of activity, for a limited period, because peregrine falcons (an endangered species) are nesting, is quite legitimate. (See *Wild Information* in this issue. Editor)

Rather than welcoming the declaration of new parks, we should look more carefully at the areas which are the subject of National Park campaigns. Are they worth it? Do they measure up to international standards? For example grazing, logging and mining were all taking place in the area of Bogong National Park before it became a park. Perhaps that declaration was not warranted at that time.

The real threat to our parks is not from management agencies but from other government and private bodies involved in tourism. They believe our large parks could attract far more people and dollars, especially from the lucrative overseas market, if there were a hut or two here, a track or three there, and a road somewhere else. The signs are that such ideas are gaining widespread support.

Sandra Bardwell
South Yarra, Vic

Sandra Bardwell is employed by Victoria's Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands.

Married Bliss?

Wild's outstanding achievement has been its marriage of wilderness adventure with conservation. With so much of our wild heritage destroyed, it is critical that we all practice minimal impact and that we seek to protect

remaining wilderness from its multitude of threats.

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In light of all this I question your decision to publish an account of the 1986 Greenland kayak expedition (see *Wild Information*, *Wild* no 23)... The expedition started at the beginning of winter.

From my experience of two six-week Arctic canoe trips, I suggest that the northern summer is the only time to be on the water. The risks of wilderness travel are real (indeed that is part of the attraction) and must be faced when they naturally occur. But to invite them in advance is foolishness.

I hope you continue to promote adventure with sensitivity. Perhaps the Greenland drawing story could be used in an article on drawing the line between adventure and foolishness.

Joss Haiblen
Downer, ACT

Me Too

I enjoyed the 'Tasmania: Coast to Coast' account by Roddy Maclean in *Wild* no 22, but feel I must mention that a successful attempt at such a traverse was made in 1982.

Greg Holschier, Mike Janowsky, Linton Kerber and myself, from Bendigo College of Advanced Education, did the walk as part of the two-year Associate Diploma of Outdoor Education course conducted at the college. We started our Trans Tasmanian Expedition at Cooke Creek on 22 August and arrived at Penguin on the north coast on 20 September, after 30 days. During the 30 days we encountered 21 days of rain or snow, and countless swollen creeks and rivers—with close encounters at both the Gordon and Gell Rivers. We also had leeches, blisters and two cases of fluid on the ankle...

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David Chandler
West Beach, SA

Readers' letters are welcome. A selection will be published in this column. Letters of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Write to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

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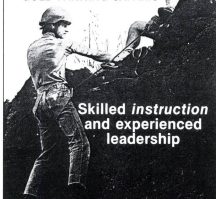


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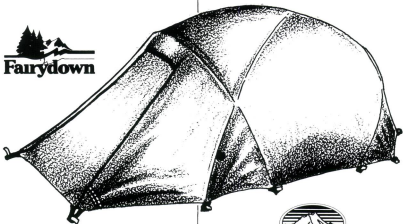
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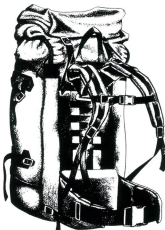


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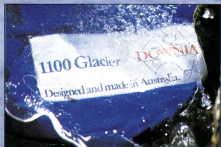
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| Light brown writing on cream | 14A |
| 'Discover Wilderness' | |
| Blue writing on cream | 14A |

| Windbreaker \$9.95 | size |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 'Take a walk on the Wild' side | |
| Light blue writing on cream | 12A, 14A |
| Light brown writing on cream | 12A |

If in doubt regarding sizing, allow for larger size (where available). Price includes packaging and surface postage anywhere in Australia. Add \$1.50 for each garment to overseas addresses. Allow several weeks for delivery. Send cheque/money order and details, including size, to Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

Club News

Clubs are invited to use this column to advertise their existence for the benefit of novices and newcomers to their areas, to keep members in touch and to give notice of their meetings and other events.

35 cents a word (minimum \$3.50) for the first 50 words, then 70 cents a word, prepaid.

Send notice and payment to Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

ANU Mountaineering Club meets first Wednesday each month at 8 pm at Australian National University, Canberra. Activities include canoeing, climbing, bushwalking, skiing and rogaining. Interested people should contact the club through the ANU Sports Union, the President (062) 46 5648, or Treasurer (062) 46 7142.

The Coast & Mountain Walkers of NSW. Mainly weekend and extended walks. Some day walks. Also cross country skiing, canoeing, cycle touring. Social outings. Walking and social programmes in leading Sydney camping stores. Meetings every second Wednesday 7.30 pm, Concord High School Auditorium, Stanley Street, Concord. GPO Box 2449, Sydney.

Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (Vicwalk) Inc • represents all Victorian bushwalkers • makes submissions to government agencies to maintain the best possible bushwalking environment • encourages all walking groups to affiliate • runs a search and rescue section • publishes safety and information material and a list of clubs. GPO Box 815F, Melbourne 3001.

Melbourne Bushwalkers. Day walks, week-end and extended trips, social functions, guest speakers, slides. Club night every Wednesday 7-9 pm, upstairs, 377 Little Bourke Street (Mountain Designs building), for booking on trips, information, socializing. Visitors always welcome. GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001.

The Victorian Climbing Club meets at 8 pm on the last Thursday of each month (except December), and second last Thursday (in September) at Eldorado Hotel, 46 Leveson Street, North Melbourne. Visitors and new members interested in rockclimbing are welcome. Contact the Secretary, GPO Box 1725F, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

The Walking Club of Victoria, Inc. meets first and third Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm at YVCA, 469 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. People interested in bushwalking most welcome to attend, or write for quarterly walk programme. PO Box 168, Healesville 3777, GPO Box 34A, Melbourne 3001.

YHA Activities meet every Monday (except public holidays) at 8 pm at Horticultural Hall, 33 Victoria Street, Melbourne (opposite Trades Hall). Activities include bicycle touring, bushwalking, canoeing, field studies, horse riding, Nordic skiing, portable hostels, sailing, scuba diving, water-skiing. New members welcome. Contact YHA Victoria, 205 King Street, Melbourne. (03) 67 7991.

Now you can tell the world in a new **Wild windbreaker \$19.95** or **T-shirt \$11.95**. Choose from cream (with dark blue writing), sky blue (dark blue writing), or dark green (lime green writing). (Cream available in all sizes, blue and green in sizes 12-16 only.) **Oz Rock T-shirts \$11.95** are now available (white, with black and red design) to complement the infamous **Rock rocks T-shirt \$11.95** (black, with white design). **Wild binders \$11.95**. Dark green (lime green writing). Each one holds eight copies of *Wild*. Send order form, bound into this issue, for details.

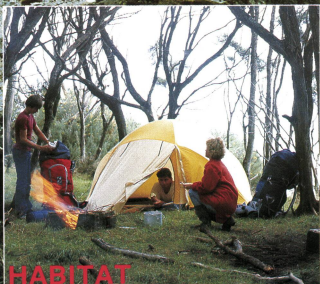
Wild Shot

A man dressed as a Tasmanian cave dweller is the central figure. He wears a brown, textured helmet with a headlamp and a matching brown, textured jacket. He is crouching in a dark, mossy forest. The background is filled with trees and foliage, creating a dense, natural setting. The overall tone is dark and atmospheric.

Tasmanian cave dweller.
Andrew Briggs

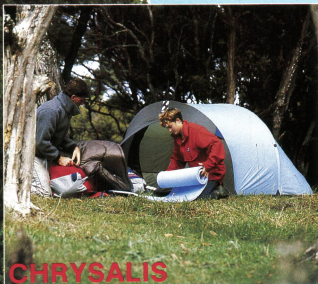
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